

HOME NEWS

Productivity deal offered to Merchant Navy officers

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

The threat of industrial action by Merchant Navy officers and cadets receded last night after union negotiators had accepted a productivity deal giving between 7.5 and 15.5 per cent.

The agreement will have to be ratified by the executives of each of the four unions and sanctioned by the Department of Employment. The payments, from November 1, are in addition to a phase two £2.50 to £4 award, backdated to June 1.

If there is a final settlement, it will remove the last serious obstacle to the TUC's ruling that unions should not delay phase two rises in the hope of doing better under "phase three".

Agreement came suddenly and unexpectedly. The unions met senior negotiators of the General Council of British Shipping for the second time in 10 days and progress was so rapid that the meeting was upgraded to National Maritime Board status.

More than two hundred management staff at the nationalized Swan Hunter shipyards on the Tyne are to receive 20 per cent pay rises, backdated to August 1. The deal follows pay comparisons with other yards considered by the Central Arbitration Committee under the 1946 fair wages provision, which is not subject to wage-restraint.

Amnesty investigates Army-RUC 'brutality'

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

A team of three from Amnesty International, including a lawyer and a doctor, will arrive in Northern Ireland next week for a 10-day investigation into allegations of brutality by the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the British Army.

It was learnt yesterday that Amnesty will also be scrutinizing the operation of counter-terrorist legislation in the province, with particular reference to sections of Acts relating to arrest and detention.

Already it is clear that the investigators will be confronted with a mass of detailed and professionally documented allegations from "loyalist" and republican groups and from members of the legal and medical professions. They will interview alleged victims of ill-treatment in many parts of the province.

Among the more bizarre items awaiting them is a 40-minute amateur video tape portraying the type of treatment it is alleged that suspects receive at the hands of police interrogators.

The tape, which includes violent dramatized scenes and an ad-libbed script peppered with four-letter words, has been made by a civil liberties group connected with the Protestant Ulster Defence Association.

The lawyer heading the Amnesty team is Mr. Douwe Korff, of Holland, who earlier this year led a similar investigation into brutality claims against the police in the Irish Republic. After Amnesty's

report the Dublin Government set up an official inquiry. Human rights "law": A call for the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into United Kingdom law was made yesterday by a Government-funded body that has been studying the situation for nearly two years.

The recommendation, in a report by the Northern Ireland Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights, will be referred by the Government to a House of Lords Select Committee.

With only one note of dissent, the 10 members of the commission rejected the idea of a separate Bill of Rights for Ulster, arguing that such a move would have many legal and practical difficulties and would be unprecedented in international law because the province is still an integral part of the country.

The commission suggested instead that Ulster should be included in a Bill of Rights covering the whole country.

The Cabinet is understood to be divided on the desirability of a United Kingdom Bill of Rights.

Terrorism "diminishing": Terrorism in Northern Ireland is not such a large-scale problem now, Mr. Cannan, Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office, said yesterday.

Ruling on traffic warden case 'not binding'

A court ruling reducing the power of traffic wardens applies only to Nottingham, the Automobile Association said yesterday.

On Tuesday a judge at Nottingham Crown Court had ruled that convictions that resulted from traffic wardens' actions did not carry the penalty of a licence endorsement.

As speculation increased that the decision meant an "amnesty" for thousands of motorists with similar endorsements, the AA said: "This is a Crown Court decision, and as such it does not bind anywhere else. The only court to which motorists can go with any sort of guarantee is the Nottingham one."

On Tuesday Judge Heald upheld a conviction against Dr Roy Saunders, of Nottingham City Hospital, for ignoring a warden's signal when driving through traffic lights, but ordered his endorsement to be deleted.

The AA added that it was taking a cautious view of his ruling. "We naturally hope that all courts will follow suit. But each one will have to make its own decision."

Mr. David Ritchie, chief prosecuting solicitor in Nottingham, said the police had decided not to appeal against the ruling. It was up to Parliament to close the loophole in the Road Traffic Act, 1972, he added.

The Home Office said it would make no comment until it had seen a transcript of the Nottingham hearing.

Tory call to index-link firemen's pay

Mr. Whitelaw, opposition spokesman on Home Office matters, called yesterday for a commission to index-link firemen's pay to average industrial earnings in return for an agreement that they would not strike again.

Mr. Whitelaw, visiting London's emergency fire headquarters, said firemen, police and the Armed Services were in a very special relationship with the general public.

Why I should like to see a no-strike clause written into their agreement," he said, "in return they should have a commission that would ensure that their earnings are index-linked to average earnings."

Mr. Whitelaw, who was with Sir Ian Gilmour, defence spokesman, criticized the Government for not using specialist RAF and naval fire-fighters sooner.

Asked whether the Government should have done more for the troops' comfort, Sir Ian

said: "It does look as if the answer is 'yes'."

Earlier Mr. Michael Brotherhood, Conservative MP for Lough, said Mr. Rees, Home Secretary, should "do the honourable thing and resign" because of the way he had "appeared" the firemen while soldiers had to do their jobs in squalid conditions.

Mr. Nicholas Fairbairn, Conservative MP for Kilmoss and West Perthshire, said it was an outrage. "The soldiers have shown the utter immorality of striking. They are perfectly willing for less money to live in worse conditions and do their duty. But the striking firemen, living in luxury, for better pay, will not do their duty."

Meanwhile, in Plymouth servicemen's wives launched a campaign against the living conditions of their fire-fighter husbands and calling for better equipment and access to specialized apparatus.

The Army yesterday banned the use of an outdated type of fire extinguisher after a young Serviceman had been overcome by fumes at a fire in Derby. Fire brigades withdrew the extinguishers in 1968 because of their toxic effect.

An emergency resolution supporting the firemen was voted out of order on technical grounds at yesterday's meeting of the Labour Party's National Executive Committee. But a committee decided to send a deputation to see the Prime Minister and the Chancellor about the application of the Government's pay policy. The firemen's dispute will be prominent in the talks.

In Derby, Mr. Thomas Watkins, general secretary of the Chief and Assistant Fire Officers Association, said that senior officers were becoming exhausted by their duties. He gave a warning that a further strike by power workers, causing a great increase in the use of candles, might create a disastrous situation when there was only minimal fire cover.

But in Berkshire nine fire officers went on an unofficial strike in support of the firemen. There are now 15 fire officers on strike in the county.

Members of the National Union of Public Employees, who work for Staffordshire County Council at Gnosall, said they would not refuse "Green Goddess" fire appliances after tomorrow. They have warned that their action might spread to other union branches.

At least three people died in fires yesterday. At Botesford, near Nottingham, Mr. Norman Gale, aged 40, had been overcome by smoke in a fire at his home. At Chorley, Lancashire, Mrs. Mary Hinchey died when police and firemen were unable to rescue her because of smoke. A man, aged 40, died in a house fire at Spennings, in Durham.

Debate hint on health charges

By John Roper
Health Services Correspondent

A strong case exists for more public discussion about charges for health and personal social services, the House of Commons Health Services Committee says in a report published yesterday.

Higher charges might deter patients, although Department of Health and Social Security evidence was unanimous. Long waiting lists, reflecting inadequate resources, might also deter people. The balance was difficult and MPs should be in a position to debate the relative advantages.

The committee says it is for the department to monitor the effects in the services and for the committee to monitor the monitoring. The department should develop indicators of performance, in particular measures of access to show to what extent people in different areas have an equal chance of obtaining treatment and care. There should also be measures to show improvement or deterioration in the physical environment, amenities and in patient satisfaction.

The committee is not convinced that the department can accurately assess the impact on services of unplanned cuts. Economies might encourage innovation, such as the use of five-day wards. But availability or quality of services might suffer and the department should ensure that it could monitor unplanned cuts to minimize harmful effects.

It was important to distinguish short-term from long-term consequences of reducing the investment budget.

The report recommends that the department should improve its forecasts of the effect of unemployment on benefit; and that studies should begin on the relationship between management costs and patient care.

Ninth Report from the Expenditure Committee: spending on the health and social services (Stationery Office, £2.10).

When the Prime Minister sees Miss Joan Lester, chairman of the party and Mr. Ronald Hayward, general secretary, he will be told that the NEC believes that some pay settlements in the private sector appear to break the 10

per cent guidelines, whereas in the public sector there is extreme rigidity.

Miss Lester, however, ruled out of order a motion by Mr. Nick Bradley, the Young Socialist, which wanted the executive to back the claim by the Fire Brigades Union.

Union leaders, as well as MPs on the NEC, agreed that they could not take up an individual wage claim. Mr. Tuck, of the National Union of Railwaysmen, said he would be distinctly unhappy if the national executive took up his union's wage claim. Mr. Stanley said the NEC would be taking up a position that was going against the Government.

Mr. Hayward told his colleagues that the NEC had never intervened in an individual industrial dispute without the union concerned having asked it to do so.

The national executive also decided yesterday to postpone until next month consideration of whether the party should participate in the direct elections to the European Parliament. The Bill is to have its second reading in the Commons tonight.

Behind the decision seems to lie the view of some opponents of the EEC that they should not commit themselves on this issue until after the second reading.

There is to be a meeting of the Cabinet and the national executive on Monday, when the whole question of Britain and the European Community will be discussed. Direct elections, as such, will not be on the agenda.

Newham campaigner sues executive chiefs

By Our Political Reporter

Labour's left-dominated national executive committee may have to defend its policies in the High Court as a result of writs being served on eight of its members last night.

Those named in the writs include Miss Joan Lester, chairman of the party, and Mr. Norman Atkinson, party treasurer.

The legal action is the latest in the saga of Newham, North-East, the constituency that disowned Mr. Reg Prentice as its MP when it was controlled by left-wing elements. Since then there has been a political reversal.

In October the national executive decided to suspend the party's management and executive committee and its officers, and institute an inquiry, which started last Sunday. It is the suspension that

is being challenged in the courts by the "Campaign to Repeal the Electoral Law" organized by two Oxford lecturers, Mr. Julian Lewis and Mr. Paul McCormick.

Mr. Lewis has issued writs stating that the national executive has acted ultra vires in agreeing to the suspensions. He asks for them to be declared null and void.

Others named in the writs are: Mr. Ian Mikardo, Mr. Eric Heffer, Mr. Frank Allau, Mr. Nick Bradley, and Miss Joan Lester. Four party officers are also named: Mr. Ronald Hayward, general secretary, Mr. Reginald Underhill, national agent, and Mr. John Keys and Mr. Bill Jones, two senior London party officials.

Mr. McCormick said last night: "This action is of great constitutional importance."

Labour's NEC covers up pay policy differences

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

Labour's National Executive Committee yesterday covered up a disagreement with the Government over the operation of the pay policy by deleting some highly critical words before approving a motion.

Mr. Mikardo, a prominent left winger, said the press would treat the motion as "dynamite" if it stood in the form tabled by two other left-wingers, Mr. Norman Atkinson, treasurer of the party, and Mr. Emlyn Williams, of the National Union of Mineworkers.

The two wanted a delegation to "put to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer, the political and electoral consequences and application of the pay policy".

Any reference to electoral consequences was taken out and the motion was approved by 14 votes to 3. Two trade unionists, Sam Stanley (Post Office Engineering Union) and Mr. Harold Hickling (General and Municipal Workers' Union) voted with Mr. Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, against.

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MP explains why he voted twice

By Our Political Editor

Voting by a member in both lobbies at once on the occasion of the Government's defeat on clause one of the Scotland Bill was a "procedure for recording positive abstention", the perpetrator, Mr. Arthur Latham, explained, during exchanges in the Commons yesterday.

A complaint that Hansard's division arithmetic was rendered erroneous by the practice was raised with the Speaker by Mr. Malcolm Rifkind, Conservative MP for Edinburgh, Pentlands. Mr. Latham, Labour MP for City of Westminster, Paddington, retorted that nothing in Erskine May's parliamentary procedure bible provided for it either way. He commented it to members: whereas it assumes they had cancelled out a mistaken vote by going through the other lobby as well, he suggested "deliberate mistakes" could have their day too.

The Speaker was not happy. He remarked that Erskine May's reference regarded the practice as a "mistake not a demonstration": it could become something quite new in proceedings as members now persisted in people finding it difficult to decide.

Here the Speaker ptered out. He was already retreating on the edge of a precedent. He gave no ruling, knowing that a handful of members are preparing to choose the system as a way of protesting at the Government's forcing them to vote tomorrow for the European Assembly Elections Bill.


Mr. Duffell (Labour, West Lothian) voted with the Conservatives only in defeating clause one of the Scotland Bill and out, as reported yesterday, in support of the Conservative amendment.

'A dangerous psychopath': A boy of 13, described as a dangerous psychopath, who stabbed a girl aged 11 twice and left her to die on his bedroom floor, was ordered by Chelmsford Crown Court, Essex, yesterday to be detained at her Majesty's pleasure.

The boy, who denied murdering the girl, was said to have shown signs of sexual sadism and deviation.

Strike plan dropped: Plans for an unofficial 24-hour strike by 40,000 hospital, water and local authority workers in Birmingham yesterday were dropped by shop stewards on the ground that support was insufficient.

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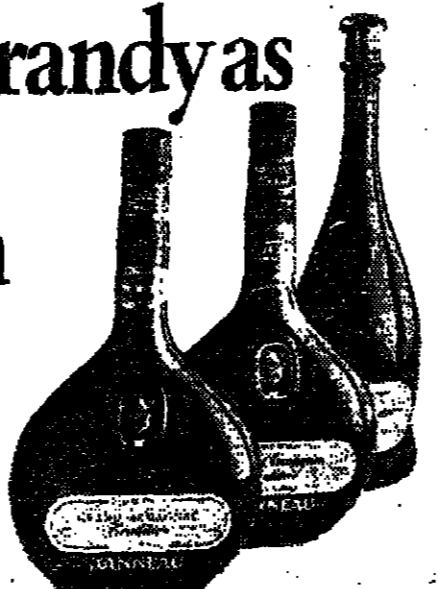
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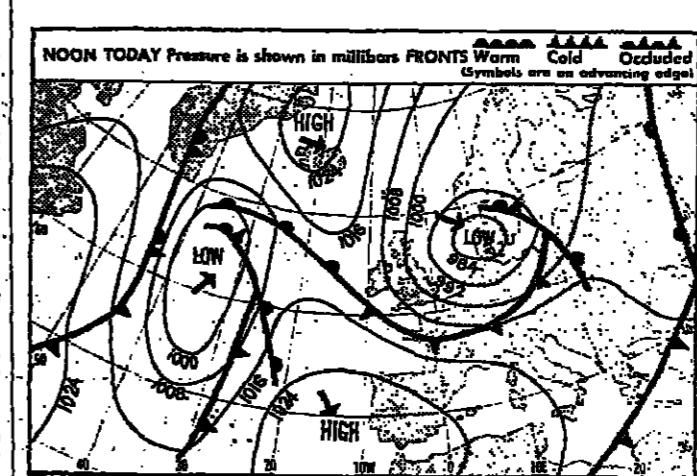
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Weather forecast and recordings



Today
Sun rises: 7.33 am Sun sets: 4.1 pm
Moon sets: 5.56 am Moon rises: 3.44 pm

Full Moon: Tomorrow
Lighting up at 4.31 pm to 7.5 am.
High water: London Bridge, 12.43 am, 7.2m (23.7ft); 1.0 pm, 7.1m (23.4ft); Avonmouth, 6.13 am, 12.5m (41.4ft); Dover, 10.5 am, 6.3m (20.7ft); 10.31 pm, 6.4m (20.8ft).
Bull, 4.55 am, 6.8m (22.5ft); 5.22 pm, 7.0m (23.1ft); Liverpool, 10.18 am, 8.8m (29.0ft); 10.34 pm, 8.5m (28.1ft).

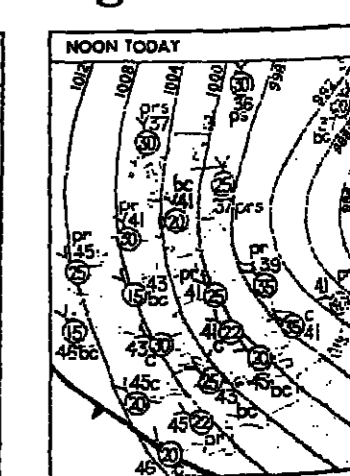
A rather cold NW to N air-stream covers the British Isles. Forecasts for 6 am to midnight: London, SE, central & England, Midlands: Sunny spells, scattered showers; wind NW, moderate or fresh; max temp 7°C (45°F). SW England, S Wales, Channel Islands: Sunny intervals, scattered showers; wind NW, fresh or strong; max temp 8°C (46°F).

East Anglia: Sunny intervals, occasional showers; wind NW, strong; max temp 6°C (43°F). NW England, N Wales, Lake District: Sunny intervals, occasional showers, snow on high ground; wind NW, strong; max temp 5°C (41°F).

Rather frequent showers, heavy at times, snow on high ground; wind NW, strong to gale; max temp 5°C (41°F). Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland: Sunny intervals, scattered showers, snow on high ground; wind NW, fresh or strong; max temp 5°C (41°F).

Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Murray Firth, NE NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Bright intervals, occasional showers of sleet or snow, heavy at times; wind N, strong to gale; max temp 5°C (41°F). Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: Becoming mostly dry, with sunny intervals, some wintry showers in E at first; night frosts and fog patches; rather cold.

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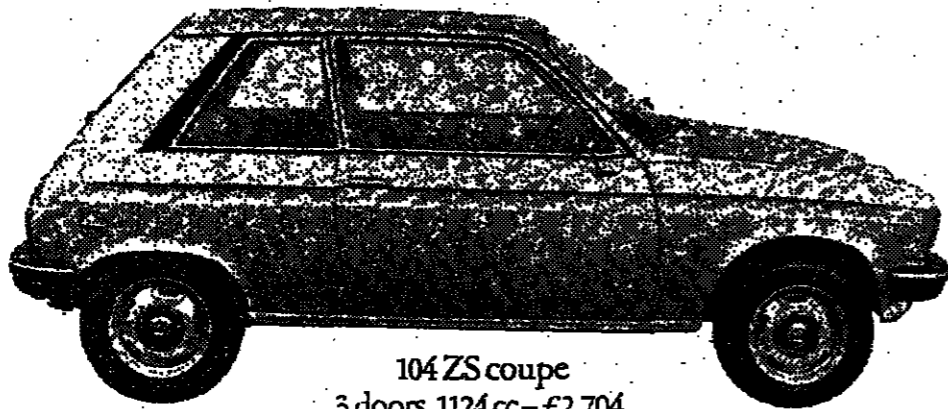
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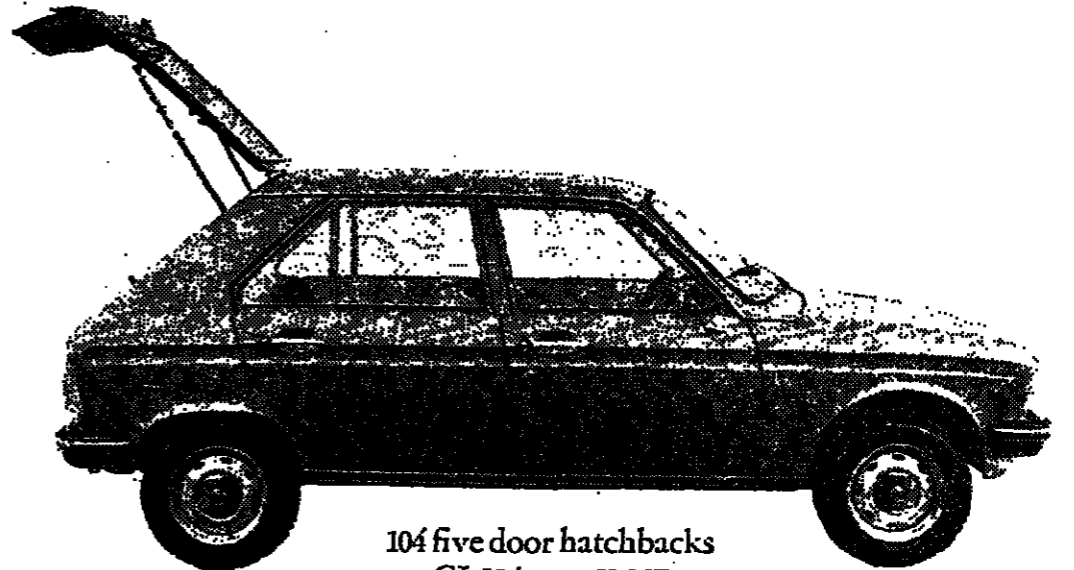
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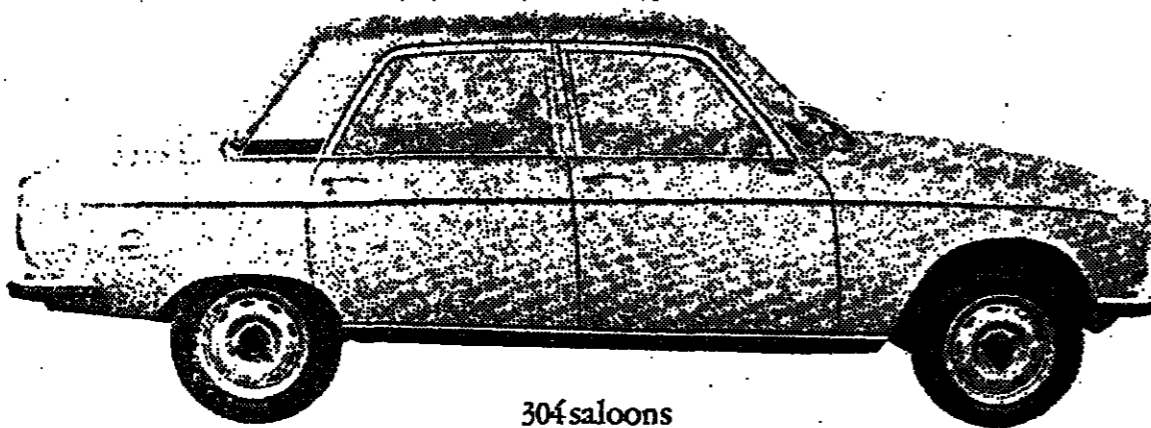
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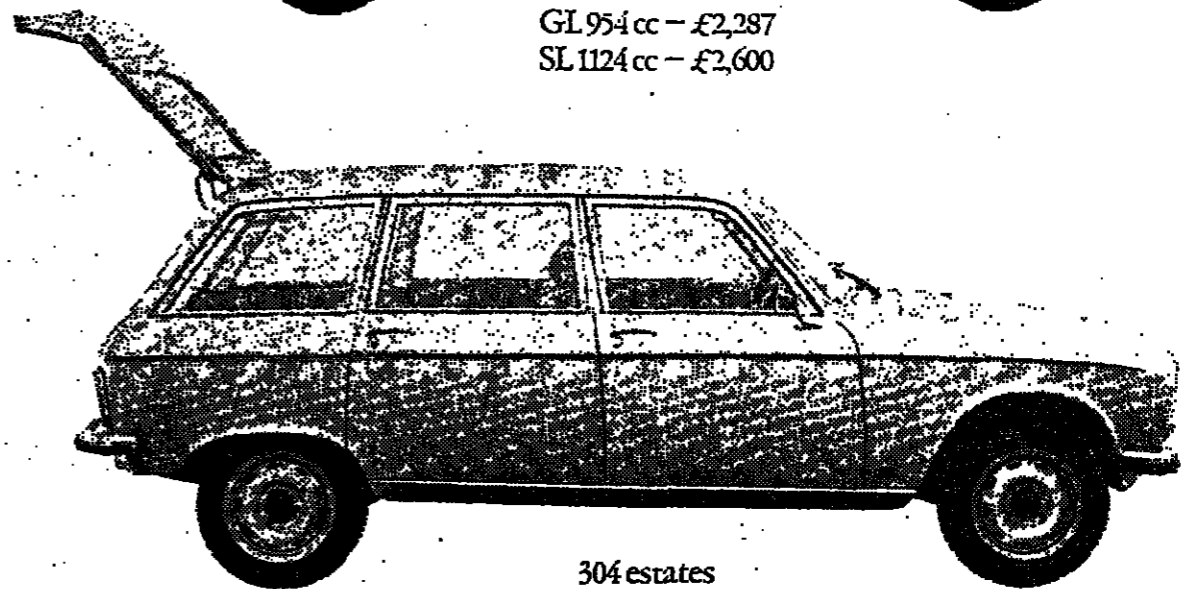
104 ZS coupe
3 doors, 1124 cc - £2,704



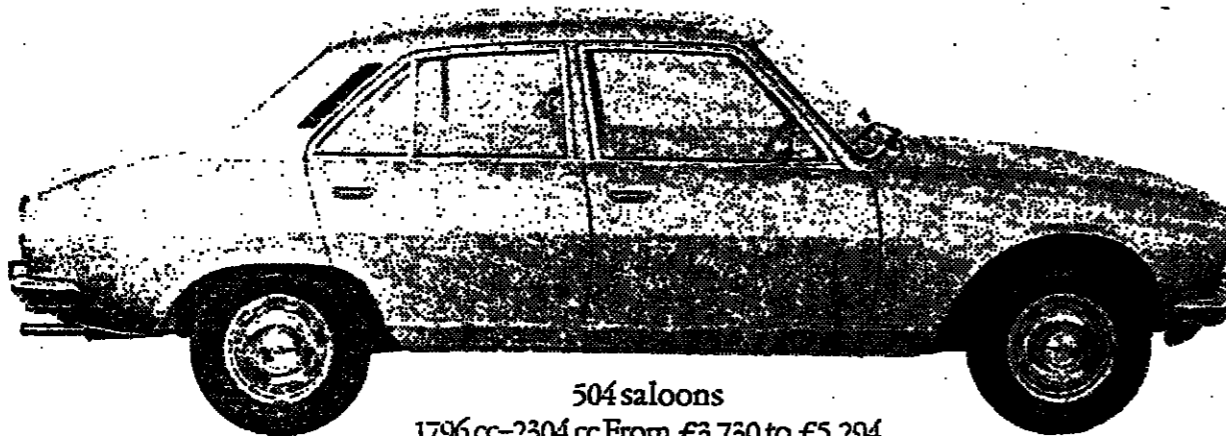
104 five door hatchbacks
GL 954 cc - £2,287
SL 1124 cc - £2,600



304 saloons
GL 1290 cc - £2,810
SLS 1290 cc - £3,151



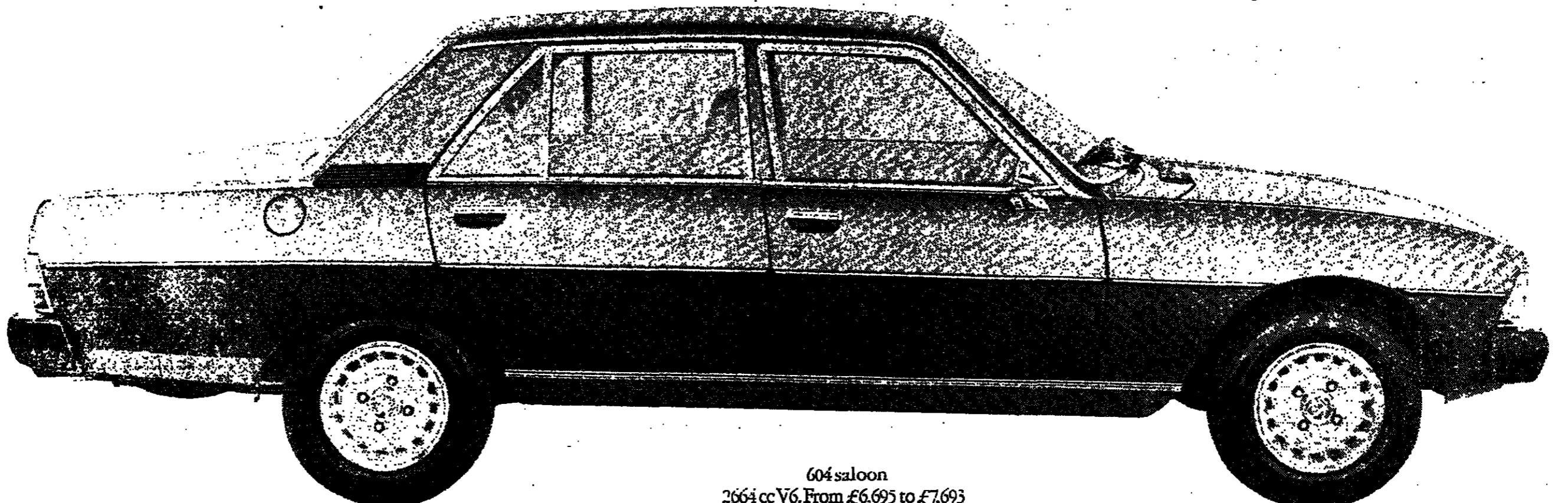
304 estates
GL 1127 cc - £2,827
SL 1290 cc - £3,051



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HOME NEWS

Churchgoers will be invited to sign a declaration against National Front's race activities

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

Churchgoers throughout the kingdom are to be invited to sign a declaration against racism, announced yesterday by the assembly of the British Council of Churches, meeting in Derbyshire. Copies of the declaration and its preamble will be circulated to all congregations of member churches for signatures.

The preamble to the six-point declaration contains a condemnation of the "strident voices of racism". Dr Kenneth Greet, secretary of the Methodist Conference, explained to the assembly: "The activities of the National Front are a murky stream drawing upon poisonous waters and polluting the life of the nation."

He said reports that a small group of clergy had joined the National Front were difficult to believe, and he hoped they were not true.

The initial signatories of the declaration are to be the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Coggan, who is president of the British Council of Churches, followed by the 150 assembly members.

In the light of clashes between National Front members and counter-demonstrators from the Socialist Workers' Party, the declaration states that racist attitudes will not be defeated by violence in the streets "but by an open and unyielding commitment to freedom and racial justice for all".

The text of the preamble and declaration states:

All who are concerned with the well-being of the people of these islands must be disturbed by the strident voices of racism which are increasingly making themselves heard.

There is a growing threat to the prospect of achieving a society

free from racial discrimination and prejudice. In many of the inter-city areas blacks and whites are together having to face economic and social problems which produce cynicism and despair. We recognise that those who are experiencing these difficulties or who are threatened by them have fears for the future and for their families. The difficulties, fears, and perplexities are real, but we believe a racist response is no answer.

We welcome the greater attention which is being given to these matters, and particularly to racial discrimination, by government, political parties, other institutions, and by the churches. The situation is urgent and calls for serious examination and reflection by all Christian people, and it calls for a positive response.

It is our whole society to be based on respect, freedom, and equality, or on intolerance, inequality, and racism? Our traditional ideas of tolerance and respect are being eroded and are in danger of being lost. Some fear that only those who live in minority areas are involved. On the contrary, it concerns us all.

The six points of the declaration are:

1. The Gospel of Jesus Christ sets forth the unity of the human race; the acceptance in love of all within the human family;
2. We assert against the claims of love and justice to seek the good of others and will work for the full human rights of all;
3. The text of the preamble and declaration states:

All who are concerned with the well-being of the people of these islands must be disturbed by the strident voices of racism which are increasingly making themselves heard.

truth of the Gospel and contrary to the true interests of this nation;

5. We believe that racial attitudes will not be defeated by violence on our streets, but by an open and unyielding commitment to freedom and racial justice for all;
6. We therefore urge Christians and non-Christians to act in ways which are free from racial discrimination and to support these values which are the foundations of our democratic society.

As a witness to the stand against racism we call upon all to sign this statement as a clear commitment to a tolerant and just society free from racism of all kinds.

The statement from the British Council of Churches is likely to be one of three from church authorities condemning the National Front this week.

The executive committee of the Church of Scotland's Overseas Council issued a statement on Tuesday saying that community workers employed by the churches and the YWCA to work with families of different ethnic background in Scotland "are deeply concerned about the growth of racist propaganda, and the activities of the National Front."

By denouncing facts the National Front is exploiting the present economic and social problems to further its racist aims. Using a strategy only too familiar, it is stirring up racial hatred by suggesting that coloured people are the cause of our problems.

The Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, now meeting in London, is understood to have on its agenda a call from the Roman Catholic Racial Justice Commission for an explicit condemnation of the Front and an assertion that Roman Catholics should not join or support it. Any statement to that effect is expected to be issued by the bishops today.

Inquiry into spending on airports sought

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

The Association of British Chambers of Commerce called yesterday for a parliamentary investigation into public spending on airports.

Commerce and industry had suffered because of delays in the publication of the White Paper on airport policy, Mr Norman Ashton Hill, chairman of the association's air transport committee, said. "It might just possibly appear at the end of the year, but this is far too late."

The association's request for an investigation has been sent to the trade and industry sub-committee of the Commons Expenditure Committee chaired by Mr Edmund Marshall, Labour MP for Gower.

Mr Ashton Hill said: "We have done so because of the grave concern in industry and commerce at the continuing indecision in the vital area of airport policy."

The association, in its letter, calls for the development of Manchester airport to international standards, for the provision as quickly as possible of full European services for the region, and for properly integrated surface transport facilities for the main airports.

Local authorities should play a bigger part in the running of airports in the future, it believes. One option would be to transfer the profitable Heathrow and potentially profitable Gatwick to the authority of local authorities, "thus providing profit-making assets for the local representatives of those who suffer the inconvenience of aircraft noise."

Such a move, it says, would offer an incentive to the local authorities involved to encourage the use of the airports rather than hamper air transport by obstruction of planning permission for such essential ancillary facilities as warehouses.

Stunned airport, despite its improved motorway link, looks potentially less successful than municipally owned Luton, it says, and the authority of Heathrow gives it an unfair advantage against its rival.

The association says that, in Scotland, Prestwick is unsuitable as the main international airport because it is inconvenient for the main population centres. It suggests that the main Scottish airport of the future, Glasgow Abbotsinch or Edinburgh Turnhouse, should be handed over to a consortium of local authorities.

'Atom terror' to be debated

By Leo Abse, Labour MP for Pontypool

Mr Abse, Labour MP for Pontypool, is initiating a Commons debate on the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution's report in 1976, which gives a warning of "nuclear terrorism" and proliferation of atomic weapons.

He has drawn first place for a private member's motion on December 2. A five-hour debate is assured.



Mr Nicholas Bonham, managing director of Bonham's, with portrait, loving cup, scarf and cricket bat, on the roof of the Hilton hotel, London.

Bids invited for jubilee souvenirs

By Penny Symon

About 150 specially invited guests who the organizers of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal hope will live up to their reputations of being "good at putting their hands in their pockets" will bid for jubilee memorabilia in London tonight.

The auction will be attended by Prince Michael of Kent and Prince Charles, as well as other members of the royal family. It has been organized by Mr

Christopher Joll, secretary of the appeal's ideas committee, and will be conducted by Bonham's.

Mr Joll explained that manufacturers of jubilee souvenirs had been asked to give to the appeal an example of what they had produced for the jubilee. The response was good and it was decided that most money could be made if gifts were auctioned. As well as companies, members of the public had sent jubilee items to the appeal with the instruction that they should be used in any way for its benefit.

Items from the manufacturers include mugs, plates, jugs and cutlery, as well as books, records, jewelry, cases of champagne, furniture, and

an enormous red-white-and-blue scarf (seen above). Those from the public are more unusual. Mrs Gladys Boyd, of Carlisle, has sent a scrapbook full of cigarette cards dating from about 1900, and the Sea Cadet Corps, Slough, a cricket bat signed by players in the 1953 Test match.

Mr Calvin Howard, a jewelry designer, has painted the Queen in Cubist style, and has presented the work, which he values at about £3,000, to the auction.

The generosity of government departments has varied. Mr Joll said the Crown Agents towards his environment. Political education, history, literature, religious education, drama and debate are all considered relevant curricula activities.

The child's aesthetic development has been taken to include appreciation of form, colour, texture and sound; affective response to environment; feelings for quality, capacity to harness imagination and feeling in creative work. Text again will be studied across the child's performance in most parts of the curriculum, including mathematics and science.

The child's physical development will be studied in the context of his ability to use his body effectively, and expressed, whether in using a paintbrush, in handling a scalpel or chisel, or in dancing.

The unit has set up exploratory groups to advise on the feasibility and desirability of monitoring standards in three other areas: the personal and social development of pupils, the development of their aesthetic appreciation, and their physical development.

Personal and social development has been taken to include the pupil's understanding of himself, his sensitivity and sense of responsibility towards others, and his moral attitude towards his environment. Political education, history, literature, religious education, drama and debate are all considered relevant curricula activities.

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£9.6m paid to those injured by criminals

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board paid a record total of £9.6m in 1976-77 to more than 16,000 claimants, according to the board's annual report and accounts, published yesterday. In the previous financial year £6.4m was paid to 13,500 people.

The highest award in 1976-77 was more than £53,000 to a middle-aged woman blinded in a shotgun attack in 1971. The delay in the payment arose because her injuries could not be assessed until after medical treatment had ended.

During the year, the board received more than 22,000 applications, representing a 22 per cent increase on the previous year.

It is stated that 2,930 police officers received awards for injuries on duty, compared with 2,298 in the previous year. Many of the 109 claims arising from disorders at the Notting Hill carnival last year were from police officers.

On mass disorders, the report says: "If there are further senseless mass disorders, from whatever cause, we will inevitably receive further applications from unfortunate people, severely injured, who will have suffered pain, permanent disability, and will have to be compensated from the public purse."

The board has examined the awards for gangs and terrorists and decided that although each case will be dependent on its particular circumstances, a member of a violent gang will not usually be awarded any compensation, notwithstanding the fact that his injuries were unconnected with his membership of the gang.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (Stationary Office, 60).

Sir Harold on 'military takeover'

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

The attempt continues to draw out Sir Harold Wilson into embracing or denying allegations against Britain's security services reportedly attributed to him.

Mr Peter Blaker, Conservative MP for Blackpool, South, the pursuer, yesterday published recent correspondence with Sir Harold in which the former Prime Minister reiterated his "total agreement" with Mr Callaghan's statement on August 23.

The Prime Minister then declared that reported allegations did not constitute ground for lack of confidence in the competence and impartiality of Britain's security services.

Mr Blaker therefore challenged Sir Harold to answer, or make a statement in the House, in further detail about the allegations.

In his letter Sir Harold raises another sensational point, that "an intended military takeover of the British Government" was a story two journalists informed him they had produced. The two journalists, who are not named, had gained Sir Harold's cooperation in investigating the supposed "South Africa connection" in the Jeremy Thorpe affair.

Sir Harold says he cooperated with the journalists only so long as they worked at the BBC. "I gave them no further assistance but saw them thereafter, when the informed me that they had gone to independent, and also produced a story about an intended military takeover of the British Government. I later learnt that their book, supposedly on the 'South Africa connection', had switched to sensational stories about murder plots."

Two footballers sent for trial

Rachid Harkouk, aged 21, and Barry Silkman, aged 25, Crystal Palace footballers, were committed for trial at Inner London Crown Court by Highbury magistrates yesterday charged with possessing 25,000 forged American dollars on October 6.

Mr Harkouk, of Stamford Brook Avenue, Hammersmith, and Mr Silkman, of Commercial Street, Stepney, were each granted bail of £4,000.

525,000 latch-key children left alone after school

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Day-care facilities in Britain for school-age children are so poor that an estimated 675,000 children are left alone during the holidays, 300,000 of them aged between five and 11. After school hours 525,000 are left alone, more than half of them below the age of 11.

Those figures, which amount to the first reliable estimate of the number of "latch-key" children, were produced yesterday by Mr Robin Simpson, research officer for the National Consumer Council. He told the annual session in London of the National Council for One Parent Families that they indicated that Britain not only lagged behind other European countries in care for the under-fives but that the needs of older children were being ignored.

Most of the "latch-key" children were in single-parent families who were caught in a painful dilemma between caring for their children and their need to earn living standards. Unless Britain mounted a large-scale publicly supported programme of day care for children they would be supervised by "increasingly harassed and isolated individuals" or, worse, left unsupervised and in considerable danger.

Mr Simpson was one of a

number of speakers calling for much more provision for single-parent families from local and central government. Dr Valerie Karm, of Birmingham University, said homeless families were better off in the old workhouse than in the new council houses. Accommodation now widely used for the homeless by local authorities.

"Many families still walk the streets by day to qualify for a bed for the night," Dr Karm said. The workhouses were more humane, at least they sheltered the family all day.

The Government was ignoring the housing needs of one-parent families by emphasizing owner-occupation and giving little encouragement to local authorities to build more council houses. Only one lone parent in six was an owner-occupier, compared with more than half of families generally, and their only hope of a decent home at rent they could afford lay with local authority housing.

Professor Roy Parker, of Bristol University, estimated that three quarters of children going into care each year come from one-parent families. Urgent steps should be taken to stop their numbers growing, said better housing and day-care services should be provided to relieve the strains on one-parent families, he said.

30 months' jail for magistrate in assault case

From Our Correspondent, Winchester

Harry Bunker, aged 60, a Southampton magistrate, was jailed at Winchester Crown Court yesterday for 30 months after being found guilty of six charges of indecently assaulting five young girls.

Mr Bunker, who was said to have sexually assaulted the girls in the court, was said to be the children's home in Southampton while he was the superintendent, was cleared by the jury of six men and six women of three similar charges relating to three of the girls.

Judge McCree, QC, told Mr Bunker that he had brought incalculable damage to the magistracy "that hard-working and dedicated body of public servants."

"As a result of this case there will inevitably be those who, interested in the degradation of our institutions, will gladly cry 'this is a corrupt man, and all magistrates are corrupt!'"

Pupils receiving free meals 'humiliated'

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, is being challenged to launch a drive among education authorities to stamp out "stigmatising practices" in schools against children taking free meals.

The Child Poverty Action Group contends in a report published today that humiliation of free-dinner children is widespread.

Group members throughout the country each spend one hour collecting information on practices in schools and came up with many examples of poor children suffering humiliation because they claim free dinners.

In Cambridgeshire school, free-dinner children are made to sit at separate tables and have to wait for second helpings until the paying children have had their meals.

A summary of the report, by a subcommittee of the Advisory Committee on the Supply and Training of Teachers, has been sent to local education authorities, further education colleges and the 10 regional advisory councils for further education in England and Wales, which give advice on the provision of courses in further education.

The report proposes that new entrants to full-time further education teaching who have not had preservice training and who have had less than three years' teaching experience should take an induction training course involving release for the equivalent of one day a week throughout one academic year, together with a period of block release of not less than four weeks.

Mr Robb Cook, MP for Edinburgh, Central, has written to ask Mr Rees, the Home Secretary, to ask chief constables to include a statement of Special Branch officers in their forces in annual returns.

In his letter, he told Mr Rees that a survey by a group called State Research had shown that only one out of 36 reports for 1976 included details of the Special Branch.

Mr Cook added: "It is particularly striking that the annual report of the Metropolitan Police makes no reference at all to the Special Branch."

New Scotland Yard, which includes over half of all Special Branch officers, "The survey suggests that New Scotland Yard has 550 officers out of a total national strength of at least 1,100."

MP wants public scrutiny of Special Branch

By Our Home Affairs Reporter

The work of the Special Branch should be subject to public scrutiny and chief constables should be encouraged to reveal more about the strength and work of the branch, a Labour MP said yesterday.

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Order compelling display of hotel room prices

By Patricia Tisdall

Legislation to compel hotels to display room prices in foyers or entrance halls was announced yesterday by Mr Meacher, Under-Secretary of State for Trade.

The Tourism (Sleeping Accommodation Price Display) Order, 1977, comes into operation on February 1 and compels hotels with four bedrooms or more to show the maximum and the minimum prices charged for each category of room.

The maximum penalty for failing to do so without reasonable excuse will be a fine of £200.

The order, which covers hotels, motels, guest houses, and self-catering accommodation, is intended to complement a voluntary code of booking practice drawn up last June.

The main requirement of the code is that hotel guests should be given written details of charges for overnight accommodation at the reception desk.

Mr Meacher said: "The two measures together: not only bring our practice more into line with Europe but in one important respect put Britain ahead. For, in some countries, guests do not find the price displayed until they have reached their bedrooms, whereas in this country they have this information before taking up accommodation."

However, the more controversial question of the statutory classification and registration of hotels, Mr Meacher was less forthcoming.

The English Tourist Board and other tourist organizations have campaigned for some time for such a scheme. An experimental voluntary register lists only a fraction of the hotel accommodation known to exist.

Mr Meacher said: "It is particularly striking that the annual report of the Metropolitan Police makes no reference at all to the Special Branch."

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Plan to keep watch on troublesome families

From Arthur Osman
Birmingham

A proposal will be discussed by Birmingham Housing Committee today to concentrate troublesome families from its estates into a block of properties and put them under close supervision.

A recent review had taken note of growing protests from council house residents about the policy of concentrating troublesome families among them in the hope that being put among good neighbours would help to improve their standards.

The controlling Conservative group thinks that policy has not worked and that it is time to protect good tenants from an antisocial minority.

The new proposal will be opposed by the Labour Party,

Fears of falling standards in health service

By Our Health Services Correspondent

Falling standards of care in the National Health Service have not yet reached the point of no return but there are grave dangers, Mr Reginald Murley, President of the Royal College of Surgeons said yesterday.

Asked whether he agreed with the view expressed by his predecessor, Sir Rodney Smith, two years ago that the service was on the edge of a precipice, Mr Murley said that many people had been pointing out for years the threats to standards but for the most part no one listened. Standards of care were carried on the shoulders of professionals, doctors and nurses, and it took a long time for cracks to show.

Difficulties sprang, he felt, not only from shortage of money but from industrial relations within the NHS, and the inflexibility of the system.

There were alternative methods, which medical care could be financed that would make it easier for doctors and patients to enjoy a more personal relationship and sometimes a better service.

Community hall project wins Heritage award

By Our Planning Reporter

A small community association in one of the bleaker areas of Portsmouth yesterday received the first prize of £2,000 in a new conservation award scheme organized by Save Britain's Heritage and sponsored by the Lesser Group.

The prize-winning project involves the still incomplete restoration of a former church hall for use as a community centre. It is being made by the Somerton Community Association in a district surrounded by a high wall and tower blocks of flats and with high rates of juvenile delinquency and suicide.

Six other entries were commended out of more than a hundred submitted. They are the conversion of a 17th-century house into a youth hostel; new workshops in Castle Barracks, Edinburgh; adaptations of the Corn Exchange, Wellington; and the historic Palace cinema, Harwich, for use as a theatre; renovation of the Hope Chapel, Horwells, Bristol; as a community centre; and restoration of the Great Barn, Avebury, Wiltshire, as a centre for the study of rural history.

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HOME NEWS

Arabs wary of 'silly' prices asked for houses

By Annabel Ferriman

The Arab property boom may be over, several London estate agents said yesterday. Most Arabs have done their buying. They bought when the market was low and have done so profitably well, according to Mr Andrew Langton, of Aylesford's, Chelsea.

Others are being frightened off the London property market because of the unrealistic prices asked, some are turning to France or the United States. Mr Trevor Abrahamson, of Glenrose Estates, Golders Green, said.

Mr Abrahamson, who earlier this year sold Beechwood House, Kenwood, to King Khalid of Saudi Arabia for £1.5m, said that houses over £150,000 had taken a drop in price in the past six months. The home of the late Sir Eric Miller in Little Belton, Kensington, on the market about four months ago at £825,000, had dropped to £675,000, he said. Arabs were getting wise to the "silly prices" asked by some owners.

Waltham, the 60-room mansion in Highgate, north London, on the market at £7m, was an exception. Mr Abrahamson described it as the "crown jewels" of London property. He and Aylesford's both had Arab clients interested.

The mansion, overlooking Hampstead Heath, has 12 acres with planning permission for 63 houses. It is owned by a Kuwaiti, Mr Al-Hassouy.

Mr Abrahamson did not consider £7m unrealistic. It had been bought a year ago for £1.5m, had £500,000 spent on it and was unique.

Mr Robert Rogers, of Benham Road, Hampstead, also did not think £7m unrealistic.

Mr Frederick Ruddle of Hampton and Sons, the Hampstead company that sold Kenwood Hall, Hampstead, to King Khalid for a rumoured £3m, said: "Once an Arab sees something he likes he is willing to pay for it."

Essex Social Services Committee decided yesterday to retain the use of the case as punishment for boys under 15 in three community homes, although the principals and staff of two homes said they wished to end its use.

From Our Own Correspondent Birmingham

Millions of people in Britain lack numeracy (the ability to handle numbers with confidence), the West Midlands region of the Association for Adult Education was told at its annual conference in Birmingham, yesterday.

Mr Richard Freeman, director of the National Extension College at Cambridge said many "more people than ever before" are considered to be illiterate. Television interviews in the North of England had asked people in the street how many 7p stamps could be bought for £1, he said. The result had been a 100 per cent failure rate, and many "absolutely ludicrous" answers. The indication was that people could not handle numbers.

The conference was given an outline of a 13-part television series on numeracy to start in January on the independent network, originating from Yorkshire Television. The series is called *Make It Count* and is the first television-based numeracy course nationally available in Britain.

It will be directed at adults who have difficulty in understanding and using the most elementary processes in arithmetic and may even stumble over recognizing numbers larger than 20. The programme and accompanying printed materials will teach number recognition; the four rules of number; simple percentages; fractions and decimals; practical mathematics; and aids to quick calculation.

The conference was told that such adults are likely to have unpleasant memories of struggling with mathematics or arithmetic at school and may have convinced themselves that they are innately incapable of understanding arithmetic. The course proposed to present numbers in a form that adults would not associate with past "failure".

The Nuffield Foundation has given £10,000 towards tutor training and has enabled 1,000 sets of training material to be sent free to local education authorities.

German group run doorstep book club drive

By David Nicholson-Lord

Door-to-door recruitment for book clubs, a method new to Britain, where advertising has traditionally been through newspapers, has gathered more than 1,000 British members for a German-based publishing group with a worldwide club membership of 8,200,000.

The group said yesterday that despite bookshelves' worries, less doorstep promotion should further undermine retail sales, its operations in Britain had received a positive response from the national book trade.

Marketing in Britain is through The Leisure Circle, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Bertelsmann Group. Bertelsmann, which operates book clubs in 20 countries and has a turnover of £725m, says it is prepared to spend £10m to ensure success for its British venture.

After initial canvassing member will receive a quarterly colour magazine offering titles for family consumption, with a heavy emphasis on fiction, at discounts of up to 40 per cent. The group hopes to follow that with such other products as records and music cassettes, and eventually to open book shops for its members, independently or in cooperation with established booksellers.

Other plans include printing books and cooperating with publishers on popular reference or heavily illustrated books. The group envisages a potential of a million club members.

Dr Manfred Herzig, managing director of The Leisure Circle, said the new venture did not threaten established booksellers and clubs because Bertelsmann was aiming at people who were not regular readers. Experience elsewhere showed an overall increase in book sales after the launch of a Bertelsmann club.

Missionary 'forced to have intercourse'

A former beauty queen, infatuated with a young Mormon missionary, aroused him into having sexual intercourse with her while he was chained to a bed, magistrates at Epsom, Surrey, were told yesterday.

Joyce McKinney, aged 27, was said by the prosecution to have followed Kirk Anderson, the missionary, across the world because of her "all-consuming passion" for him, kidnapped him with a friend's help, and kept him shackled in a cottage in Devon.

Miss McKinney, of Ashville, North Carolina, is jointly charged with Keith Joseph May, aged 24, of Maywood, California, with forcibly abducting Mr Anderson, aged 21, at the church of Latter Day Saints at Epsom, Surrey. They are also charged with assaulting and unlawfully imprisoning him at Okehampton, Devon; possessing an imitation revolver with intent to kidnap; and possessing an offensive weapon, a bottle of chloroform. Reporting restrictions have been lifted.

Mr Neil Denison, for the prosecution, said Miss McKinney was consumed by two passions. The first was a hatred of the Mormon church. The second was her desire for love of Mr Anderson.

Mr Denison said that shortly after Miss McKinney and Mr Anderson met they had sexual intercourse. What was important was that the Mormon church forbade sexual intercourse before marriage.

Mr Anderson said he arrived at Epsom, Surrey, in September, 1976, he went to East Crinford, Sussex, then Reading, Berkshire, and finally to Epsom.

Counsel said that on September 14 Mr May and Miss McKinney forced Mr Anderson into a car outside his church. They had an imitation revolver and a bottle of chloroform.

Mr Denison said they arrived at Epsom, Surrey, in September, 1976, he went to East Crinford, Sussex, then Reading, Berkshire, and finally to Epsom.

There is no doubt that sexual intercourse took place between him and McKinney. There seems little, if any, doubt that Anderson was tied to the bed.

Counsel continued: "Anderson says he did not want to have sexual intercourse. He says he was stimulated by McKinney and that she was the active partner. She says he was shackled to the bed box

they were merely instruments to be used in what she referred to as bondage sex. She says Anderson was a totally willing partner." The next day Mr Anderson was released and driven to London and put on a train to Epsom.

Counsel said Mr Anderson continued: "I spent that night with Joy in the same room. Nothing of a physical nature took place. Bob Bosler (Mr May) placed a leather strap attached to a chain on my leg the next day and he attached the chain to the bed."

"Joy told me if there was to be a ransom, the ransom would be that I would have to give her another baby."

Mr Denison asked: "Although you did not mentally want it to happen, how could it physically have occurred?" Mr Anderson replied: "She had oral sex."

Later, he lost his temper "and at one point I picked her up and threw her across the bed. She said she was going to get what she wanted whether I wanted it or not."

On the third night of captivity, Mr Anderson said, he was spreadeagled on the bed and forced to have sexual intercourse with Miss McKinney.

"When she came into the room there was a fire in the fireplace and she put some music on. She was wearing a negligee. She came to me as I

lay on the bed. I said I would like my back rubbed."

"She proceeded to do that but I could tell she wanted to have intercourse again. I said I did not. She left and returned a few minutes later with Mr May."

Mr May and Miss McKinney used chains, ropes and padlocks, to tie him down on his back to the four corners of the bed. She tore the pyjamas from his body and "she proceeded to have intercourse."

Mr Stuart Elgrod, for the defence of Miss McKinney, testified that at no stage was Mr Anderson ever tied up in the cottage except for the purposes of sex games.

Mr Elgrod said: "No, no, that is wrong."

Mr Anderson admitted that he was not tied up. Miss McKinney had asked her for a back rub.

Mr Elgrod described that as highly erotic, and asked Mr Anderson if he had not been courting temptation.

Mr Anderson replied: "I do not look at a back rub like that."

"My mom gives me a pretty good back rub, but that does not mean that I want sex with her."

The hearing was adjourned until November 29, both defendants being remanded in custody.

Civil Service admits just a little inefficiency

By Alan Hamilton

Civil servants are not, after all, impenetrable in their pension-protected security of employment. As the white-collar bureaucracy of government passed 250,000 in number, a Commons written reply has disclosed that 235 administrative civil servants were dismissed last year.

The unexpected information was given by Mr Morris, Minister of State at the Civil Service Department, in reply to a question from Mr Ian Gresh.

Mr Gresh, a Conservative MP for Cardiff North, who wanted to know how many were retired prematurely on grounds of inefficiency, limited efficiency, redundancy or incapacity. Premature retirement is a euphemism in the circumstances because the figures cover all civil servants except those working beyond normal retirement age.

Easily the smallest ground for dismissal was that of inefficiency, with only 33 victims last year. Next came limited efficiency, which weeded out 40, followed by redundancy, which so rid of 77. The principal reason for dismissal was that of inefficiency, which accounted for 85 rolled heads during the year.

A civil servant may be dismissed by his head of department, but the victim has recourse to the Civil Service Appeal Board, which can review his case. The Civil Service Department said yesterday that those removed under the heading of "inefficiency" were not necessarily approaching retirement, but might be staff of any age, many of whom had reached the likely limit of promotion and were blocked by the advancement of their juniors.

Not all departments fared equally. Redundancy hit hardest at the Ministry of Defence, where 55 warhorses were put out to grass. Only four were dismissed and five retired for redundancy. But at the elephantine Department of the Environ-

ment 29 members were disciplined out of the service, four were found inefficient and only one was made redundant.

Inefficiency was also a difficulty at the Department of Health and Social Security, where 10 staff were dismissed last year. It also had one case of dismissal because of inefficiency, two of limited efficiency, and no redundancies.

To judge by the figures, inefficiency is most rife in the Inland Revenue and the Civil Service Department itself. Five taxmen were found inefficient, four were disciplined and, surprisingly, six were made redundant.

At the Civil Service Department no one was deemed to be wholly inefficient, but 24 employees were required to leave because their efficiency was limited. The department made no capital charges last year.

Departments primarily handling money appear to be gratifyingly honest and well behaved.

There were no cases of disciplinary dismissal at the Treasury, the Royal Mint or the Paymaster General's Office, but there were five such instances in the Department of the Environment. The Home Office had one disciplinary case, its only dismissal for the year, but there was evidence of much laxity in the Department of Employment, where 13 were dismissed for indiscipline.

Even those departments closest to the seat of power did not escape unscathed. Four people were dismissed from the Cabinet Office.

No important department escaped without an entirely unblemished record, but among the least tarnished were the Paymaster General's Office, the Scottish Office, the Central Office of Information, the Registry of Friendly Societies, the Registrar General, the Export Credits Guarantee Department, each of which dismissed only one employee.

The society says: "The results, which include turbulence, uncertainty and a constantly changing pecking order, are not conducive to thoughtful planning and development of the curriculum or to good pupil-teacher relationships."

The society says that it would prefer a system based on catchment areas that would guarantee a place in a particular school, while offering alternative places if places existed elsewhere.

That would protect children of parents who were unable or unwilling to take part in a system of choice, it says. It is now recommending the proposal to decide how they should be changed, and whether to press ahead with legislation or simply to issue advice to authorities.

The Society of Education Officers represents the administrators of the education service, who advise local authorities and carry out policies.

Many officers had experience in trying to administer a system of free choice among a large number of secondary schools, the society says.

The society's strong reservations about the Government's proposals set out in this paper echo many of those already expressed by several members of the Labour Party.

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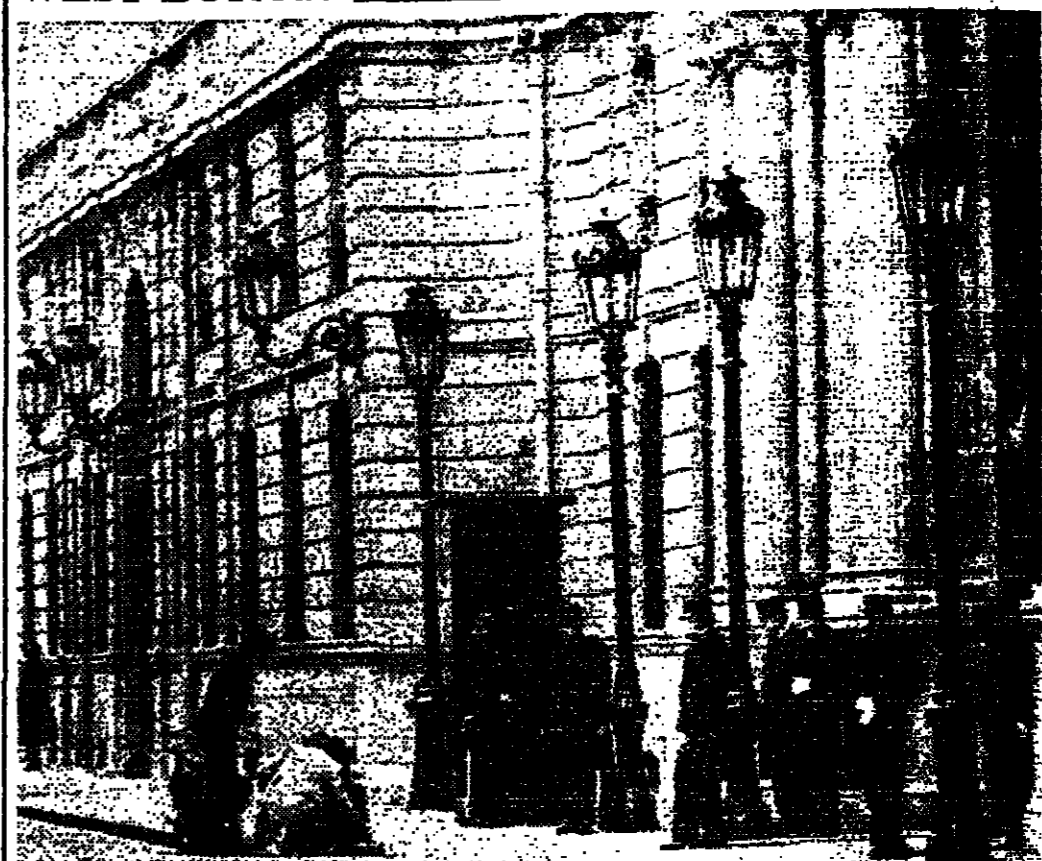
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WEST EUROPE



Police examine the pavement outside the Elysée Palace where the shooting took place.

Policeman killed as man tries to shoot his way into Elysée Palace

From Ian Murray Paris, Nov 23

A man charged the front gates of the Elysée Palace in a van this morning "to deliver a message" and in the ensuing struggle shot dead a policeman on duty. This evening he was under arrest at the local police station after lengthy questioning.

The interrogation was said to have shown that the man, Paul Lucas, a former naval veterinary surgeon, aged 33, had been under observation by the police for three days after threats to murder the President.

His flat in Rue Haxo in the Nineteenth Arrondissement was searched yesterday. Police returned to his flat this morning and found that Mr Lucas had left home at about 5.15 am in a hired van.

The attack on the Elysée Palace came at about 10.15 am

when a van burst through the police guard and drove straight for the main entrance. The police there had enough warning to shut the grille and pull the chain across the doorway.

The driver, a man with short blond hair and nearly 6ft tall, got out brandishing a 22 calibre. He fired a shot into the air and the police at the doorway threw themselves on to him.

One of them, Mr Abou Hammech Ahmed, grappled with him as he fell to the ground. He was shot in the stomach. He died later in hospital.

The man was disarmed after firing the shot and taken to the local police station for questioning.

He was said to be the same man who in 1968 sent threatening letters to President de Gaulle and who was arrested in 1970 after claiming he was going to organize a coup out-

side the Elysée. On that occasion he spent 18 months in a psychiatric hospital.

He later sent threatening letters to President Pompidou and to President Giscard d'Estaing, which led to the search of his flat yesterday.

He rented his present flat a month ago. His concierge said today that on finding out he was a veterinary surgeon she had asked him about her cat.

"He answered that he was a naval vet, and that he only bothered with sea monsters," she said.

The attack has turned the spotlight on to the security of the President. Although the man got no farther than the front gates of the Elysée Palace, it is already being asked how he could have got so close.

Fortunately a Cabinet meeting was in progress when the attack took place so a stronger than normal guard was on duty.

Four razor blades found in Herr Croissant's cell

From Patricia Clough Bonn, Nov 23

The discovery of four razor blades in the heavily guarded cell of Klaus Croissant, the Baader-Meinhof defence lawyer extradited last week from France, is causing concern here. The cell had been thoroughly searched.

One of the blades was allegedly found by Herr Croissant under constant supervision in Stammheim high security jail near Stuttgart as a precaution against a possible suicide attempt.

Three leading members of the Baader-Meinhof group, including the group's leader, were held in Stammheim and a fourth terrorist in Munich, in what was seen as a

final act of aggression intended to cause maximum embarrassment to the Government.

Herr Croissant's defence lawyer, Herr Stefan Baier told me today that Herr Croissant woke up at 8 am on Sunday to see the blade hanging from a nail in the side of the cell cupboard. He immediately informed the Prison authorities and had it removed.

Herr Baier alleged that the discovery was made by a judge in charge of Herr Croissant's case who only learned of it when Herr Baier told him yesterday.

A spokesman for the court confirmed the finding of the blade and added that in the subsequent search of Herr Croissant's cell three more were found in the lavatory cistern. He said the blades were of a make used in the prison, but would not make any suggestion as to how they got into the cell.

Party members reject Dutch coalition accord

From Our Correspondent Amsterdam, Nov 23

Stops of forming a centre-right Dutch government dimmed today when members of the Christian Democratic parliamentary group disavowed the agreement made by their leader, Mr van Agt, with the conservative Liberals on Monday.

Reached after more than five months of fruitless talks between Christian Democrats and Socialists, the Liberal-Christian Democratic pact will now have to be renegotiated.

Left-wing Christian Democrats are upset by the vagueness of the proposed programme. Mr Wiegels, the Liberal leader, has defended this lack of precision by declaring that the programme will have to be filled in by the new government itself. However, the dissenting Christian Democrats want the economic policies defined in far greater detail.

Italian senator fears that terrorists are employing secret agents dismissed by Western powers

Terrorist mercenaries suspected

From Our Own Correspondent Rome, Nov 23

Highly trained agents, declared redundant by Western intelligence organizations, may be joining terrorist ranks as recruits and instructors, according to Senator Ugo Pecchioli, the Italian Communist Party spokesman on law and order.

Surveying the spread of terrorism, which has brought increasing violence to Italy, he declared that the "new colonialism in Africa had thrown up groups of white mercenaries."

New attempts at reforming various secret services, including the CIA as well as the West German organizations, were making available well trained experts in violence. Some of them were ready to throw in their hand with terrorism.

However this did not apply to the Italian secret service, which, the senator said, was in a state of inertia.

The Communist Party had had to accept the existence of a "red terrorism" coming from the left, he continued. That was more difficult for them to grasp than the political violence of the late sixties and early seventies which came from the right. Left-wing terrorism was rare in Italian

history, with the exception of isolated attacks by anarchists. The question of where this violence was coming from turned around the consideration that Italy was approaching a fundamental change, with the Communists on the verge of power.

The senator did not exclude interference from outside Italy. The world, he said, was full of interference of this type, and not only from the sphere of government. In the capitalist world, there were many ways in which interference could take place without a government's knowledge. Italian ministers had made allusions to foreign interference without saying what they meant by this.

Signor Pecchioli said there was a connection between West German and Italian violence at student level. After the May riots in Bologna (the main Communist stronghold in Italy) some West German students were arrested. They were living on scholarships, he said, and they had also been in touch with elements of West German terrorism.

He estimated the number of active terrorists in Italy at both left and right at between 700 and 800. There was then a second ring around

them of about 4,000 people who were more legal than illegal but who helped the inner ring materially. A third ring of about 4,000 was of occasional assistance and another 15,000 felt that although terrorism was wrong they could not oppose or betray the terrorists.

The cities worst hit were Turin and Rome, followed by Milan and Genoa and Reggio Calabria. In Turin a half of the population (500,000 people) were immigrants, most from the south. They were, he said, the first generation to leave the soil and were not easily manageable by the organized Left. The main Fiat works, where terrorist pamphlets had been found, were too big for the Communists to impose a thorough discipline.

Something of the same could be said for Milan where about eight workers of the STT-Siemens works have been charged with terrorist activities.

Clandestine activities, Senator Pecchioli continued, cost money "as we Communists know". Terrorists needed additional manpower, financial backing and arms. And so they had close contact with four kinds of common crime: arms traffic, drug traffic, robberies and kidnappings.

Man 'planned to kill president'

Jakarta, Nov 23—A Muslim university student was charged today with planning to assassinate President Suharto of Indonesia and his family.

Fachri Basya, aged 24, who was arrested last year, is accused of planning to use explosives to kill the President and his family. The trial was adjourned until December—Reuters.

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WEST EUROPE

Czech leader plays down importance of Charter movement

From Sue Masterman
Vienna, Nov 23

Czechoslovakia should have admitted foreign observers to the recent trial of the Charter 77 signatories, Mr. Lubomir Strougal, the Czechoslovak Prime Minister told a press conference in Vienna, where he is on an official visit.

It was the courts which had decided to ban foreign observers. In his country, the Government does not dictate what the courts should do.

He later said: "We did not want to publicize anything about this trial. We considered that it was not in the interests of those concerned. Pressure from abroad forced us to publicize part of it."

Answering questions, Mr. Strougal said that he did not consider the Charter 77 movement as a danger to Czechoslovakia. "Journalists in our country have overestimated Charter 77. In my opinion, they have done this, not because of their own information, but because of what they have seen in the press abroad. We do not prosecute people just because they are members of the Charter 77 movement, but we do fight the movement, politically."

He accused the Charter 77 signatories of claiming the sole right to represent Czechoslovak opinion on human rights in Prague.

He was in favour of free access by bona fide foreign journalists to Czechoslovakia, but accused the Western press of concentrating on the negative aspects of the system.

No one knows better than we do what faults we have. Journalists from abroad should talk more to the man in the street, and by that I do not mean the man who supports the Government. We have plenty of critics in our own country who do not belong to Charter 77, critics who are more realistic and more positive."

Mr. Strougal's visit marks a mild thaw in Austro-Czechoslovak relations, mainly economic and cultural matters were discussed. But there were also exchanges on human rights generally and on some specific cases of Austrian citizens in difficulties in Czechoslovakia.

Mr. Strougal promised to review the Charter 77 movement. At a press conference, Mr. Strougal's daughter, Eva, who is 21 and acts as interpreter, and occasionally corrected other interpreters, Mr. Strougal went into the offensive on human rights before the start had virtually been raised. He appeared to be waiting for a counter-attack which never really came.

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From Gretel Spitzer
Berlin, Nov 23

An East Berlin military court today sentenced three West Germans to jail terms for espionage on behalf of the West German intelligence service.

Herr Horst, aged 39, was sentenced to life imprisonment. Herr Wolfgang Rietig, aged 22, to 15 years and Herr Christian Kahl, aged 24, to 10 years.

The trial, which began on Monday was held in camera. According to a report in *Neues Deutschland* the court found that the men had violated the inter-territorial agreement by travelling in connection with espionage, the visitors' arrangement on visiting East Germany, and the quadripartite agreement on Berlin.

A further alleged misuse of the transit routes was also reported by *Neues Deutschland* today. It said that a West German had been found on Monday in connection with alleged smuggling of East Germans to the West in a lorry.

There have recently been a series of reports on alleged violations of the transit agreement. *Neues Deutschland* yesterday quoted a Moscow broadcast claiming that transit traffic between West Berlin and West Germany was used for various illegal activities.

The East German authorities claimed that such activities were supported by the West German authorities.

Asked about the allegations, Herr Günter Gens, the West German envoy to East Germany, told reporters in East Berlin today that the Federal Government would continue its efforts to prevent any misuse of the transit agreement.

It seems that after a period of relative quiet, a war of nerves against West Berlin has started again. The improvement in transit arrangements between the city and West Germany is generally considered as one of the main benefits of the quadripartite agreement.

Valued threats that East Germany might take steps against the alleged misuse of transit routes are accompanied by an increasing number of Soviet protests against West Berlin's ties with West Germany, alleging violations of the quadripartite agreement.

The agreement states what is not allowed, such as planetary sessions of the Bundestag for instance, but does not give details of what is allowed.

In a letter to the chairman of the committee which produced the report Mr. Barre, the Prime Minister, wrote today that substantial results had been achieved towards getting a better distribution of wealth. But there was still much to be done to "reduce certain inequalities which are justified neither by talent nor effort and to correct excessive differentials".

This must not be done "in a spirit of levelling down and false egalitarianism", he added.

M. Lionel Soler, the State Secretary for labour, told journalists this afternoon: "It takes courage for the Government to take steps towards redistributing wealth in a period of economic crisis. But these are the responsibilities of the Government's determination to end certain inequalities now."

The report on the wages structure showed that France was the only industrialized country where manual workers were systematically less well paid than other wage earners.

"A great industrial country must pay its manual workers at their true value", he said.

The Government's recommendation to bring the wages of manual workers up to the level of white collar workers must be regarded as a medium-term economic investment as much as a social measure.

The inter-party committee did not intend to publish the draft until December 10, by which time members would have discussed the constitution for the second time. Señor Peces Barba wrote yesterday to the editor of the magazine which is used for its radical line, to protest at its publication and offer his resignation. The editor replied that one of the draft's articles in which they had published recognizes the freedom of expression without prior censorship. The magazine is considering publishing the rest of the draft.

The constitution committee held a special meeting today to discuss the publication.

Jet fighters crash

Stockholm, Nov 23.—Two Swedish Air Force J35 Draken jet fighters taking part in separate exercises crashed today in southern Sweden. One of the pilots was killed.

Los Angeles, Nov 23.—There was alcohol in the blood of Mr. Clive Lionel Goodwin, aged 45, a British literary agent who died in a jail cell after being arrested for public drunkenness, a coroner's report said today.

Mr. Goodwin was actually dying of a stroke, the report said.

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OVERSEAS

Counsel for Steve Biko's family accuses district surgeon of breaking the Hippocratic oath

From Marcel Berlins
Pretoria, Nov 23

A doctor who had made a statement describing Steve Biko's death as "satisfactory" the day before the Black Consciousness leader died was accused today of a breach of the Hippocratic oath in not putting the interests of his patient first.

The accusation was made against Dr Benjamin Tucker, the chief district surgeon for Port Elizabeth, by Mr Sydney Kenridge, counsel for the Biko family.

Mr Kenridge also suggested that "no honest doctor could have advised that Biko's condition was satisfactory".

Dr Tucker was being cross-examined on the eighth day of the inquest into the death of Mr Biko in Pretoria on September 12.

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was an indication of brain damage.

"Do you say that a man in that condition can be described as being in a satisfactory condition?" Mr Kenridge asked. Dr Tucker did not concede the point. He accepted, however, that in saying in a report that there were no positive signs of organic disease, he had been incorrect.

Dr Tucker emphasized that he did not consider Mr Biko's condition to be serious. There was still in his mind the possibility that he was shamming, he said.

He admitted that he knew a lumbar puncture had been performed on Mr Biko, but did not wait for the result of it before consenting to Mr Biko being driven to Pretoria by Land-Rover. He heard later that a "worrying" presence of red cells in the spinal fluid had been found (which could indicate brain damage), but did nothing to stop the Land-Rover from leaving with Mr Biko.

He accepted that he had allowed the interests of his patient to be subordinated to the interests of security.

Professor Gordon, one of the medical assessors sitting with the magistrate, questioned Dr Tucker on allowing the use of a Land-Rover rather than an ambulance.

Dr Tucker said that he had been assured that the Land-Rover would be provided with mattresses. He had not inspected the vehicle to see whether it was suitable. The magistrate, Mr Martinus Prins, pointed out that the evidence heard earlier had been that Mr Biko was lying on mats, not mattresses.

Professor Gordon suggested that the doctor's responsibility to his patient ought to have included looking at the Land-Rover to see that it was adequately equipped, he also took the view that Dr Tucker's ethical duty to Mr Biko should have been to ensure that he was in a position to be transported in a suitable vehicle.

Dr Tucker found Mr Biko's left arm weak. Mr Kenridge continued, and could not make contact with him because he was apathetic and had a low degree of consciousness.

The doctor also knew that a physician who had examined Mr Biko had found an extensive plaster of cast (toe curling up instead of down) which was the first sign of a foot which was scratched) which

calls for a just system based on biblical principles. It also urges equal political and economic opportunities for people of all races, abolition of statutory prohibitions impeding free dealings between people of different races, the repeal of the Immorality Act, greater press freedom and more information on security matters, such as last month's hearings.

The system of detention without trial places too great a responsibility on the minister concerned, the declaration says. The Minister of Justice is duty as sole human protector

and neighbour of these prisoners". This was clear from his action in the Biko case, it alleges.

Its authors, who have been criticized for their timing in the Afrikaans press, say that the Calvinists largely support the policy, direction and philosophy of the National Party, but are concerned about its recent actions.

Signatories include Professor Johan van der Vyver, head of the department of legal philosophy at Potchefstroom University, several lecturers and two black clergymen of the Dutch Reformed Church.

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more involved him in making more forceful representations to Colonel Goosen, the district security police chief, when the Colonel told him of his decision that Mr Biko was to be driven to Pretoria rather than taken to a local hospital.

Questioned by Mr B. de V. Pickard, counsel for all the doctors, Dr Tucker agreed that when he had used the word "satisfactory" about Mr Biko's health, he meant satisfactory for travelling purposes, and not as suggested that Mr Biko was "fit and well".

The next witness, Dr G. Hersch, a physician, gave evidence that he had examined Mr Biko on September 8. Prior to the examination, he had been told by Dr Ivor Lang, the district surgeon who had examined Mr Biko the previous day, that Mr Biko had exhibited similar symptoms during a previous period of detention.

Dr Hersch said that he understood Dr Lang to have been raising the possibility that Mr Biko was shamming. Colonel Goosen had subsequently told him that Mr Biko was a very important detainee who had distributed subversive pamphlets and was dangerous.

Dr Hersch also said that he had made it known to Colonel Goosen that he had found organic things wrong with Mr Biko. He had never expressed the opinion to Colonel Goosen that Mr Biko was shamming, although they had discussed some aspects of his symptoms which were difficult to explain.

The doctor said that he had found three factors indicating possible brain damage: echolia (Mr Biko was repeating the last words of sentences addressed to him), weakness of the left side and the extensor plantar reflex.

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Mr Chikerema: "Rough talks" with Mr Owen.

'Treachery' criticism is renewed

By Roger Barthoud

A two and a half hour meeting yesterday with Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, failed to change the view of Mr James Chikerema, the Ethiopian nationalist, that the British Government had behaved treacherously over its proposals for Rhodesian independence.

In Salisbury on Monday, Mr Chikerema, who is a vice-president of Bishop Abel Muzorewa's United African National Council (UANC), accused the British Government of being gutless, spineless, speechless, toothless, useless and treacherous.

Dr Owen had been "pretty annoyed" at this, he told a press conference yesterday. But nothing happened in their "hard" front and at times rough" talk to dispel his impression of treachery.

The British, he said, had attempted to work behind the UANC's back, in particular by calling a conference in Malta this month involving only "Mr Smith's regime and the so-called Patriotic Front" (led by Mr Robert Mugabe and Mr Joshua Nkomo).

"That was a deliberate attempt treacherously to leave us behind." It would require a great deal of evidence to persuade UANC that the British Government was not trying to make Mr Nkomo the first president.

He had implied to Dr Owen that he thought the Anglo-American proposals for independence were "washed up". But Dr Owen continued to say they were the best ever put on the table.

Talks continue today with Mr Rowlands, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Field Marshal Lord Carver.

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SPORT



O'Callaghan, Cambridge University's wing, in full flight at Grange Road yesterday.

One-man band outplays the rest

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

Cambridge Univ 19

Steele-Bodger's XV 16

A tour de force by John Robbie, Cambridge's Irish International scrum half, came to a remarkable climax at Grange Road yesterday afternoon when, in injury time, he levelled the scores with a

many goal and then, having

used a drop shot by a whisker

to hit another penalty, down

he hit the winning drop, a

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Racing

For Prince
Abyss
life begins
at 11

By John Karter

Peter Arthur has been steadily forcing his way into the limelight since he was placed in the Totalisator Free Handicap which is due to be run at Newmarket on April 19. Last year The Minister, the speaker of Vincent O'Brien's powerful assault force of three-year-olds which by the end of 1977 had over 200 runners, was placed 1st 13th in that season's handicap. 8th behind the top weight, 10 lb. But yesterday O'Brien's colt was given 7 lb, 3 lb in front of the Champagne Stakes winner, Seamus Blake, who chased home Try My Best in the Newmarket 2300.

Geoffrey Gibbs has clearly taken the view, which is borne out by the form, that the Dewhurst is the key to the season's classic. And indeed he is siding with history in his opinion. The record of Dewhurst winners is a record of classic winners. When you consider that Nijinsky, Mill Reef, Gravelly, Willow and The Minister

are five of the last eight winners of this seven furlong event, its importance can be appreciated. But Try My Best's superiority to his rivals is only marginal. A range of 10 lb separates the top 11 horses in the handicap. Yesterday afternoon the Northern Dancer colt was favourite at 9-4 for the 2,000 Guineas with the Title and the Middle Park Stakes winner, Formidable, as second choice in the market with both firms at 8-1.

O'Brien's two-year-old's total domination of the betting is caused by two factors. First, in the sequence of three races with out defeat, Try My Best has established without doubt that he is his trainer's outstanding prospect. Second, the burst of speed which Lester Pigott unleashed to enable the colt to spring clear of his opponents at the business of the Newmarket immediately stamped Try My Best as the only two-year-old, apart from Cherry Hinton, to show those instant powers of

Question mark about Try My Best

By Michael Seely

As expected, the Dewhurst Stakes winner, Try My Best, has been placed top of the Totalisator Free Handicap which is due to be run at Newmarket on April 19. Last year The Minister, the speaker of Vincent O'Brien's powerful assault force of three-year-olds which by the end of 1977 had over 200 runners, was placed 1st 13th in that season's handicap. 8th behind the top weight, 10 lb. But yesterday O'Brien's colt was given 7 lb, 3 lb in front of the Champagne Stakes winner, Seamus Blake, who chased home Try My Best in the Newmarket 2300.

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acceleration which are the hallmark of real class.

The only question mark hanging over the colt's superiority is that he has yet to record a fast time. This is not Try My Best's fault. He has done all that was necessary to overcome his rivals. But until a horse has done a really fast time, it is dangerous to rush in and make a short price for next spring's 2000 Guineas. Try My Best does not represent good value at his present odds. Backers must now wait to see his first race as a three-year-old before reaching a definite conclusion, as judged on form alone there is a whole pack of talent snapping at his heels.

At this stage I do not envisage Sexton Blake as likely to improve enough to be a threat to Try My Best in the first classic. Barry Hills's Blakeney colt looked a little past his peak before the Dewhurst, but I cannot see him improving enough to match Try My Best's turn of foot.

Bracketed together on the same mark at 9-11 are Formidable and Tumbledownwind. This is fair enough as Bruce Hobbs's colt was conceding 3 lb to Formidable when Peter Walwyn's two-year-old best him by one and a half lengths in the Mill Reef Stakes at Newbury.

We may have seen the best of Tumbledownwind, whose future may lie in the realms of sprinting. Out I doubt that the same is true of Formidable. Like Try My Best, Formidable is an American-bred. He showed remarkable improvement towards the end of last season, winning five races in a little more than a month, in the last of those victories, Formidable beat Persian Bold by only three-quarters of a length and gave the impression that he had something in hand at the finish.

His jockey, Patrick Eddery, agrees. After riding Camden Town to finish third to Try My Best in the Dewhurst, Eddery stated that Formidable might have been a match for the winner. Most of the stock of Formidable's sire, Foal, show improved form as three-year-olds, so we are in for an interesting time next spring.

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Kent's day finishes as
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Kent and his jockey, Peter Burt, were both fined for failing to show up for the race. Kent was fined £50 and Burt £25. The stewards then recorded Kent's explanation "that his charge had to be held up and, owing to the weather, he had not been able to reach the leaders when asked."

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Kent's decision to switch Dycote from Saturday's Black and White Whisky Hurdle

Hospitals and health care

a Special Report on
medical exports
to the Arab countries
and Iran



An EMI scanner in use at the King Faisal Hospital in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and a Save the Children Fund inoculation programme in progress in North Yemen.



NHS experience plays vital role

by John Roper

The National Health Service is nearly 30 years old and because its difficulties attract more publicity than its achievements, it is often forgotten that it has built up unrivalled expertise in all branches of health care. This experience and knowledge, and the high reputation of British medicine, are proving invaluable in keeping Britain in a leading place among those countries which supply everything necessary to Arab countries engaged in a huge and rapid expansion of their health care systems.

The NHS is one of Britain's biggest industries, employing more than 800,000 doctors and nurses and supporting professional staff, engineers, technicians, administrators and many categories of skilled workers. In the strong competition to promote and sell medical goods and services in the Arab countries, provision of professional and trained staff is at least as important as the supply of buildings and equipment. The demand is overwhelming. Two years ago Mr. Cusack, then Secretary of State for Social Services, said after a tour of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iran that the oil-rich countries "have extremely ambitious health development programmes". An example of what she meant is that Saudi Arabia, well started on development, plans to build another 50 to 90 hospitals in the next five years. It is officially estimated that the Opec countries will spend at least £3,000m on capital development in health care in the next five years.

Among the services it gives is that of a centre for the collection and dissemination of information. A weekly bulletin reports on developments in health services overseas and hospital projects being considered or approved, lists inquiries from abroad for specific equipment and from agencies, and gives information about medical conferences, meetings and exhibitions.

The council sponsors about 15 exhibitions overseas each year, offering groups of British companies joint venture terms under which space may be taken at £15 a square metre—much less than the normal commercial stand rental rate. Financial help is given for air travel of representatives manning stands at exhibitions outside Western Europe and for the return of unsold exhibits. Seminars are held on overseas markets and arrangements are made, with some government financial help, for groups of company representatives to go abroad and bring themselves up to date on market conditions as well as for groups of doctors and senior health officials from other countries to visit firms and hospitals in Britain.

A members' directory of health care equipment, supplies and services is published annually and is circulated widely overseas. The council also supports the publication of specialist books. The latest, describing British skills in intensive care, was produced in conjunction with Intec Publications for the World Congress Intensive Care in Paris last September.

The Industries and Exports Division has its headquarters in Russell Square, London, and was a branch of the main supplies division of the NHS until 1975, when it was expanded. It employs a number of travelling officers who collect intelligence on a government-to-government basis about health care. The representative who looks after the Arab countries is Mr David Wright, who speaks Arabic and who was seconded from the Foreign Office.

The author is Health Services Correspondent, The Times.

Second thoughts about priorities

by Alan Grainge

After the initial phase of extravagant spending over the past few years, in the urgent need to improve their health services, the oil-exporting countries of the Middle East are beginning to take another look at their priorities.

They have discovered that not even the prodigious resources from oil exports can buy a ready solution to the endemic problems of disease and premature deaths which are caused by a combination of malnutrition, primitive or non-existent sanitation and ignorance.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has estimated that in its eastern Mediterranean region 1.75 million children out of a total of 12,500,000 born each year will die and at least another 600,000 will die before their fifth birthday. The biggest

causes of death will be respiratory infections, gastroenteritis, whooping cough and measles. Out of 47 million children under five in the same region, a million are estimated to be suffering from malnutrition severe enough to endanger life. There has been a rapid increase in psychiatric illnesses in the Middle East in recent years. WHO has calculated that mental disorders account for 20 per cent of all illness in its eastern Mediterranean region. This is now being treated as a special problem by the 26 states in the region and there is general agreement among them that it has been largely caused by the rapid social changes and disruption to the traditional way of life that have taken place. A recent investigation of physically ill patients in the Pabari Hospital in Tehran showed that 64 per cent of them were suffering

from mild to severe psychiatric disorders. The rise in psychiatric illness has happened at a time when most of the countries in the region are desperately short of facilities and staff for the mentally ill. According to a WHO survey, North Yemen has no psychiatrist at all and South Yemen has only one. In more than a third of the states in the eastern Mediterranean region there is no medical psychologist. Most countries in the region have only one or two mental hospitals and even Saudi Arabia has only one such hospital to serve the entire country.

With the emergence of this and other new health difficulties, many Middle East countries are now reassessing their health-care programmes. A recent report by the Middle East Economic Digest (MEED), pointed out that Saudi Arabia, for example, has found that unlimited funds and technology are not the sole answer to its difficulties. "It now has an estimated 62 hospitals providing 7,300 beds, in addition to another 215 clinics or dispensaries and 372 health centres. These facilities are staffed by about 2,000 doctors and nearly 4,000 nurses," the report says.

But it goes on, "the country has hardly had the opportunity to assess the success of this rapidly established health service". It is hardly surprising, therefore, that both Saudi Arabia and Iran, where there has been a similar programme of rapid health service development, are beginning to reconsider their planning.

In Saudi Arabia, the Government wishes to ensure that there is an effective distribution of health facilities and staff before authorizing more spending on buildings and equipment. Similarly, Iran seems likely to reconsider its budgeted heavy spending on new hospital beds and will place more emphasis on primary care.

But while these second thoughts about immediate priorities are understandable, if somewhat belated, they do not affect the overall strategy of Middle East countries' plans for a continued expansion in their health care programme. A report published by Frost & Sullivan, the United States-based market research firm,

suggests that the total demand for medical equipment, instruments and supplies in Saudi Arabia, Iran and Egypt will grow from \$85m in 1975 to \$262m by 1980, with a projection to \$432m by 1985.

The individual forecasts for 1980 and 1985 are: Saudi Arabia, just over \$100m and nearly \$150m; Iran, \$135m and \$250m; Egypt, \$23m and \$50m.

As the MEED report points out: if the activities of the Gulf are added in, the attraction to the world's major medical exporters is obvious.

The overall picture for health care equipment manufacturers exporting to the Middle East was well summarized at a conference this summer organized by the London Chamber of Commerce. A senior member of the Department of Health and Social Security outlined some of the problems and described the market as being essentially made up of three areas.

First, there are what he called the "same trading companies" such as in Libya, Iraq, Syria and, to some extent, Egypt. In those countries buying is regulated centrally and the governments have reputations as good payers.

Second, there are the oil-producing states of the Gulf which are noted for "disorganized central purchasing systems". For instance, there are six different agencies developing hospital programmes in Saudi Arabia.

Third, there are those countries in the Middle East which are "developed" and well-organized in the Western tradition" with Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt cited as examples. While these countries are not as wealthy as the others, they are often more perceptive buyers than their neighbours.

In a survey of future demand the MEED report suggests that in the Gulf the most dramatic increases are likely to be in disposables, electro-medical equipment, X-ray machinery, instruments, medical and dental furniture and mechanical therapy devices. In Iran and Saudi Arabia, for example, the 1985 demand for electro-medical equipment has been forecast at \$28m. Disposables are likely to remain the largest single item, with a suggested 1985

demand of well over \$42m in Iran and around \$28m in Saudi Arabia.

The planned large-scale hospital programmes underway in Saudi Arabia, Iran and to a lesser extent in Kuwait and the other states of the Gulf are also expected to make the demand for medical and dental furniture increasingly heavy over the next few years.

This growth, however, is likely to decline after 1980 as construction projects are completed and the alteration of priorities begins to take effect.

In Saudi Arabia the 1975 market value of slightly less than \$5.6m is expected to reach nearly \$20m by 1980, but there is an expectation that this will fall significantly to an additional \$2.8m by 1985.

One indication of the importance attached to spending more on health care by the Middle East countries over the next decade will be the exhibition to be held in Dubai between November 26 and 30.

Firms from 14 countries will use the opportunity of promoting their products at the Middle East Health Care Exhibition '77.

Britain has the greatest number of companies represented at the Dubai exhibition and more than 20 are actively participating in a joint venture scheme under the auspices of the British Health-Care Export Council.

Also well represented will be Finland, whose foreign trade association will be featuring the many designs, planning and construction services, various types of equipment and pharmaceuticals offered by 16 member firms.

There will be Danish participation, with six leading electronics firms exhibiting. Hungary will have a national stand for its pharmaceutical products and a group of French manufacturers of surgical equipment will also be taking part.

In addition, there will be exhibitors from the United States, Germany, Sweden, Belgium, Switzerland, Greece, Austria and Spain. The range of products being shown at the exhibition will include almost every aspect of hospital management and equipment, from diagnostic laboratory equipment, ambulances, kitchen and maintenance services, prosthetics, X-ray units, and advanced X-ray units.

British exporters, whether participating in the Dubai exhibition or not, are actively supported by the Industries and Exports Division of the DHSS. This has been extended to assist British pharmaceutical and medical equipment manufacturers and suppliers in their export aims within the framework of export services provided by the Department of Trade, the British Overseas Trade Board, the Export Credits Guarantee Department and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office at home and abroad.

Part of this support is provided by a team of specially-trained officers which travels regularly throughout the world visiting governments, health authorities, looking at hospitals and meeting British and foreign firms which handle medical supplies and pharmaceuticals. One result of these visits has been that there is a marked preference among countries which are in the process of drawing up their own health development programmes to deal commercially on a government to government basis.

In this area the Exports Branch is able to offer valuable backing to British firms involved in bidding for large-scale contracts for all kinds of procurement and often for complete "turnkey" projects to design, build and equip new hospitals.

But even though the market for new hospitals and health care equipment is bound to take at least a decade to satisfy there will remain, probably for much longer, the need for the support of expatriate medical skills and management. Manufacturers with experience of the Middle East have learnt that there are lucrative markets for advanced medical equipment and pharmaceuticals as well as for turnkey or package projects which involve taking over the responsibility for the entire planning and building of a hospital.

They have also discovered that Middle East buyers, whether they are rulers, government departments or independent companies, are surprisingly fair in honouring the terms of the contract and that they, for their part, expect delivery and performance in accordance with its terms.

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Education a big aid to sales

by Pearce Wright

The Opec countries of the Middle East, North Africa and elsewhere form the most rapidly growing market for the pharmaceutical industry. Communities which rarely used an aspirin a few years ago have become users of large quantities of some of the most up-to-date drugs available, and export figures for British manufacturers show that this trend is not confined to the oil-producing nations.

For example, orders for the first nine months of this year show supplies worth £7.4m to Libya, £3m to Egypt, £1.2m to Syria, £1.5m to Jordan, £7.6m to Saudi Arabia, £3.5m to Kuwait, £900,000 to Bahrain, £780,000 to Qatar, £2m to Abu Dhabi, £1.5m to Dubai, £1.2m to Oman, £1m to North Yemen, £350,000 to South Yemen, £27m to Iraq, and £15.8m to Iran.

Companies operating from Britain have excellent opportunities because of the large number of doctors and nurses trained in Britain or educated to British standards. Moreover, the British Pharmacopoeia provides professional guide lines for most importing countries on the description and use of medicines. A ready made set of safety standards is thus available in the absence of locally-derived regulations. However, the most effective safety measures in the use of medicines are probably based on a simpler idea, which requires the various drugs on offer to be identical to those in use in the country of origin. Supplies of pharmaceutical goods from the United Kingdom would, on this yardstick, have passed the rigours of the Scowen committee on the safety of drugs.

This is one reason why many multinational concerns have established branches in London to provide a springboard for the Middle East markets. Nevertheless there are still plenty of backstreet manufacturers in European countries prepared to undercut reputable companies, if they can introduce a cheap substitute into a territory without being asked to show the results of extensive laboratory and clinical trials.

Some manufacturing is being done by indigenous companies in the new markets. An important industry is developing in Egypt, where important antibiotics and other compounds are being formulated from raw materials provided by well-established firms. In general, the range of pharmaceutical goods used in the industrialized countries is the same as that demanded by doctors in the developing areas. There are obvious special requirements to counter diseases such as cholera, which is in epidemic proportions again this year, affecting Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Iran so far. Various public health measures have lowered the incidence of this disease, other intestinal conditions, and trachoma.

Outbreaks of cholera in the middle of the year pose a special threat for Saudi Arabian medical services, which have to prepare for more than a million pilgrims converging for the Hajj. As routine the Ministry of Health and Red Crescent Society prepare for massive inoculation programmes and intensive hygiene controls in readiness for the pilgrimage. Indeed, an intensive public health programme that began in the Hajj area for the whole country is under way.

The oil boom has its undesirable side-effects on the petroleum-producing countries. Almost every kind of consumer product can be found in the wealthy countries. An increase in the

continued on page 15

Health Care Opportunities Overseas

The Crown Agents, who have a developing interest and involvement in the health care field and as a public service have special facilities for seconding UK staff, would be interested in hearing from professional staff in health care who wish to enlarge their experience by a tour of overseas service in the Middle East. We have several Principals on whose behalf we are continuously seeking staff in the medical, nursing, para medical, engineering, training and administration fields. If interested please give us a call and we shall be happy to discuss opportunities with you. Ask for Margaret Hadden or Heather Farrow. (01) 222 7730 Ext. 3515 or 3231.

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Britain increasingly provides the training

by Michael Horsnell

Negotiations now taking place between the Saudi Arabian Government and St Andrews University may soon lead to the enrolment of Saudi medical students at one of the oldest schools of learning in Europe.

The plan would mean the creation of 15 new places for them in medicine, a course which is normally filled by 75 students, mostly British.

More significantly though, the plan would also mean the immediate troubling of medical students throughout Britain admitted each year on an average from the wealthy Arab countries, according to calculations made for *The Times* by the Universities Central Council on Admissions.

Only about 3 per cent of students who fill the 3,500 places each year in British medical schools are from overseas, and only a handful of these are Arabs.

But there are signs of a large increase as the Arab governments increasingly look to Britain to provide the skills necessary to train the young men and women who will revolutionize their health systems.

Arab medical students have spoken to me confident of a significant increase in their numbers in

Britain, but the increase may even out within a decade as they return home to bring Arab health standards up to international levels.

They and the medical authorities in Britain are meanwhile quick to point out that the influx will not mean a lack of places for British students.

The increase will be beneficial to our own institutions. Arab oil money will often mean additional buildings and improved facilities.

Dr J. Steven Watson, Principal Vice-Chancellor at St Andrews, said: "We sympathize with the need the Arab countries have to build up their medical services. Not everyone, for instance, in Saudi Arabia is all that wealthy and some are in need of urgent medical attention."

"It is, however, difficult to turn away good Scottish boys or good English boys and we have this year been able to squeeze in only two Saudi students although our school was nominally full."

"The university and the Saudi Government have been looking at ways in which their problem could be eased."

"The only way we could do this was by expanding our medical school so we could take a small but significant number and still be able to lay our hands on

our hearts and say no British student had been excluded."

"Additional buildings and extra tuition will be paid for by the Saudi Government. But for our own part we have been anxious during negotiations to convince the Saudis that we were not trying to take them for their shirts."

Dr Watson added: "Prospective Saudi students will have to meet minimum standards for entrance."

"I think we will have an increase which will look quite considerable in the next two years. Then I think it will decline again. In the long run I would expect us to have built up a teaching staff in Saudi Arabia which will then continue to run on its own lines."

Medical schools in Saudi Arabia are meanwhile beginning to acquire a good reputation among those Arabs now in Britain.

Miss Nada Shamma, aged 24, is now in her final year at Charing Cross Hospital, and after qualifying hopes to specialize in obstetrics and gynaecology.

England has been home to Miss Shamma since she was 12. She had always wanted to study medicine but found the length of the course daunting. Instead she chose to read natural sciences at Cambridge. But when she graduated in 1973

she finally found the attraction of medicine too great to resist.

Despite the roots she has put down in England she expects to take her specialist knowledge back to Saudi Arabia in a few years, where she can expect to earn a fortune by British standards at one of the Arab teaching hospitals. In her preregistration year, next year, she expects to take home pay of £120 a month.

"Why did I take up medicine in England and why stay here for a while?" she asked. "I could earn eight times that much at home next year. But it's always nice to be a specialist. Saudi medical schools now provide a good basic training but a medical degree is not yet up to international standards. To specialize you have to be in England."

She added: "The Arab countries really are longing for knowledge, which can only be acquired abroad."

"A lot more Arabs will come to Britain if there are the places. Then they will go back home. A lot will go back because job opportunities will be so good. We can expect a very rapid development in health care services in Saudi Arabia and in other oil producing Arab countries. It's already changed tremendously in the past two or three years."



Mr Mahdi al-Tajir (second from right), Ambassador for the United Arab Emirates, witnessing the signing in the embassy of contracts for the new liver cancer research centre at King's College Hospital, London, a model of which is in the foreground. The UAE is paying for its construction and much of the running costs and it will complement a research unit to be established in Abu Dhabi.

David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, sees the need for unremitting efforts to present United Kingdom goods and services in the most attractive way

The export drive is vital to Britain's future since the possibility of improving and developing the health services depends largely on the success of British industry in selling its products overseas. I am determined to do what I can to see that the health care equipment and pharmaceutical industries, with the professional groups engaged in hospital planning and design, can continue to extend their contribution in the overseas market.

The Middle East, where many countries are now rapidly developing their health programmes, is one of Britain's most important markets. The scale of hospital buildings is quite breathtaking and mass projects are offering unprecedented

opportunities to foreign firms. No wonder all the major industrialized countries are engaged in fierce competition for orders. But this is a market where Britain has many traditional links, and where British medicine is respected and the advice and help of our doctors and health specialists is much sought.

Much of Britain's experience in developing a national health service is directly applicable in the Middle East, and is offered by my department to British consultants and companies. For example, we have devised a systematic approach to the planning, design, construction and equipping of hospitals and health centres, and control of project costs. We have built up a fund of knowledge on hospital fur-

ture and equipment and its maintenance, in many cases developing new equipment in cooperation with our manufacturers as part of our research and development programme.

It is often easier to build hospitals than to find the skilled health care personnel to staff them. Such problems are not limited to the Middle East, but through its medical schools and hospitals, and colleges, Britain is often able to help with guidance in training and to offer places in a wide range of educational establishments. For example, the department's own Hospital Engineering College at Farnfield takes students from all over the Middle East.

I have visited the Middle East three times in the life of this Government, includ-

ing Dubai, and have had the considerable pleasure also of receiving ministerial and official visitors at home. As a result, I have through personal contacts been able to explain at government level just what Britain can offer these developing countries. Contracts must be won in the market place, and this means presenting British goods and services in the most attractive way possible so that customers are bound to take notice of what we have to offer. I know this calls for unremitting efforts from everyone concerned in production and exporting.

I wish all of them, and the British Health-Care Export Council which is organizing the very large British contingent at the exhibition, the best of success for Dubai 1977.

Education a big aid to sales

continued from page 13

number of expensive cars and supermarkets has been associated with a rapid expansion of many towns. The difficulty comes with a lack of rubbish disposal and sewerage systems, which would be taken for granted as part of urban development in Britain or North America. Hence the most important preventive medicine programme needed by most developing countries must start with public hygiene campaigns.

Three courses of action are open: making the public more hygiene conscious, provision of an adequate sewerage system together with efficient disposal of rubbish, and control of the insects that thrive on garbage harbouring bacteria. At least this is the way the dilemma has been analysed by the public authorities in Saudi Arabia. Five years ago the Saudi Government began the job of attacking each part of the problem they had formulated.

The first hurdle was that

the Government had plenty of money but there was a shortage of technical experts and lack of knowledge of the subject. The second one was to devise a realistic timetable for such a campaign. A comprehensive education project would need at least a generation to take effect, provision of adequate sanitary services would take over a decade, and the third required knowledge of large scale pest control.

In fact work was started on the third measure as a matter of priority. Though

expensive it gives a breathing space for the longer-term projects to start. The task was given as a public health control contract to the Ciba-Geigy company, which five years ago conducted a special fly eradication operation before the annual Haj. Methods of aerial spraying and decontamination with hand-held smokeguns devised for the job are in use over an area including 10 of the largest towns in Saudi Arabia with a total acreage of more than 100,000 acres, as well as out-

lying districts covering 400 sq kilometres. Estimates made by teams of entomologists before the programme began and repeated recently, show that the number of flies has been cut by more than 70 per cent. The present campaign is to continue until 1979. It will probably be needed much later than that because the long-term problem of garbage disposal and sewerage services, together with the inculcation of proper hygienic practices, is far from being solved.

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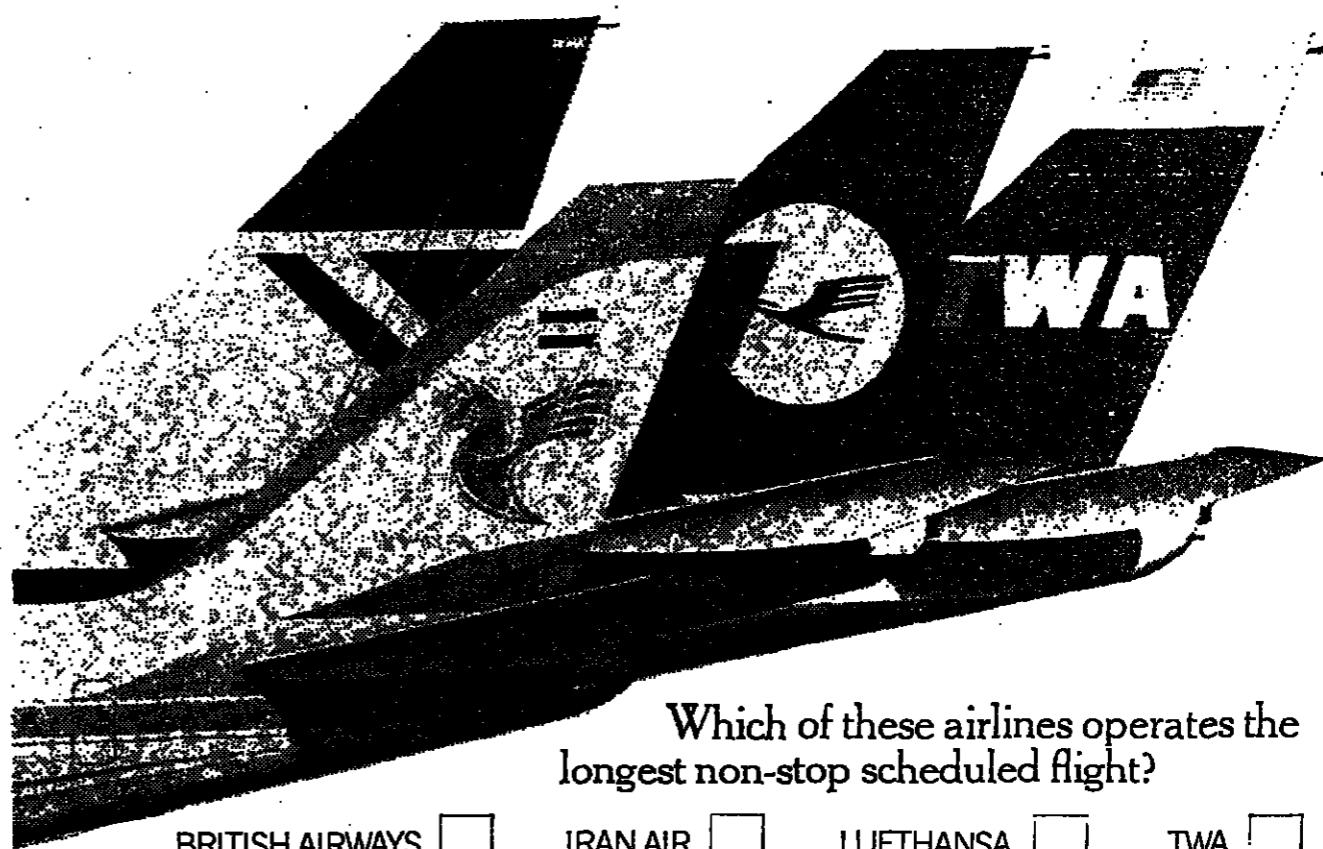
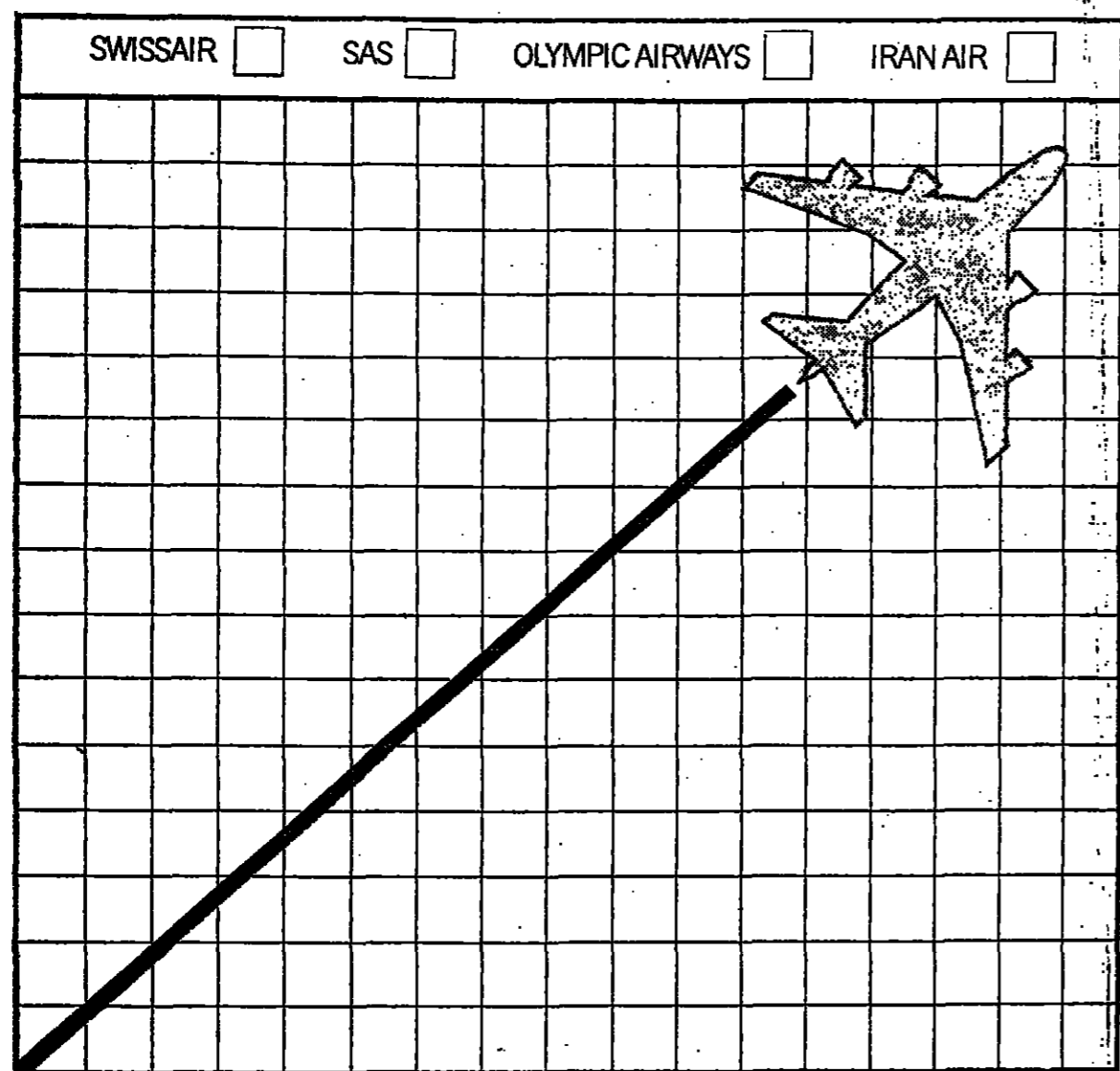
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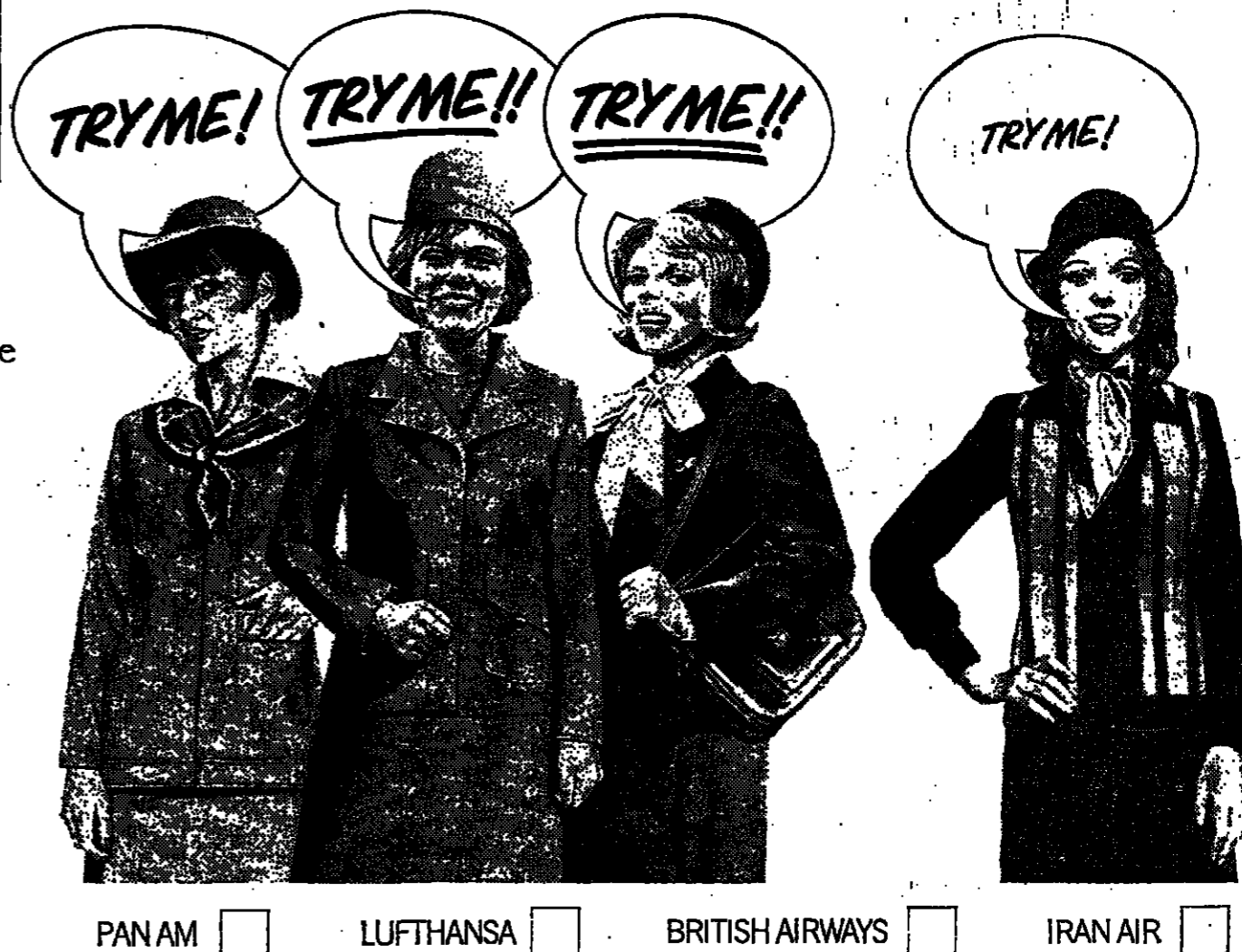
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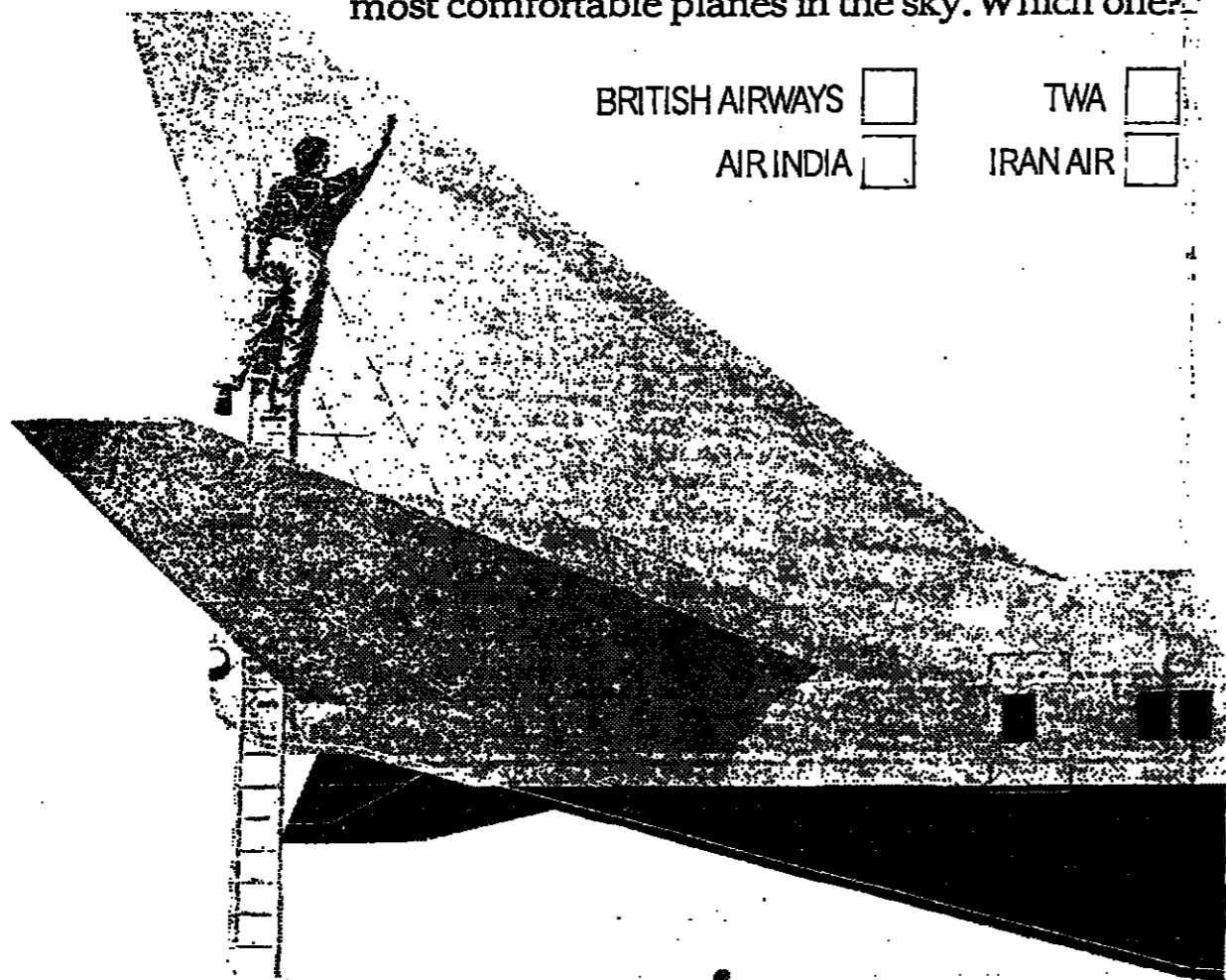
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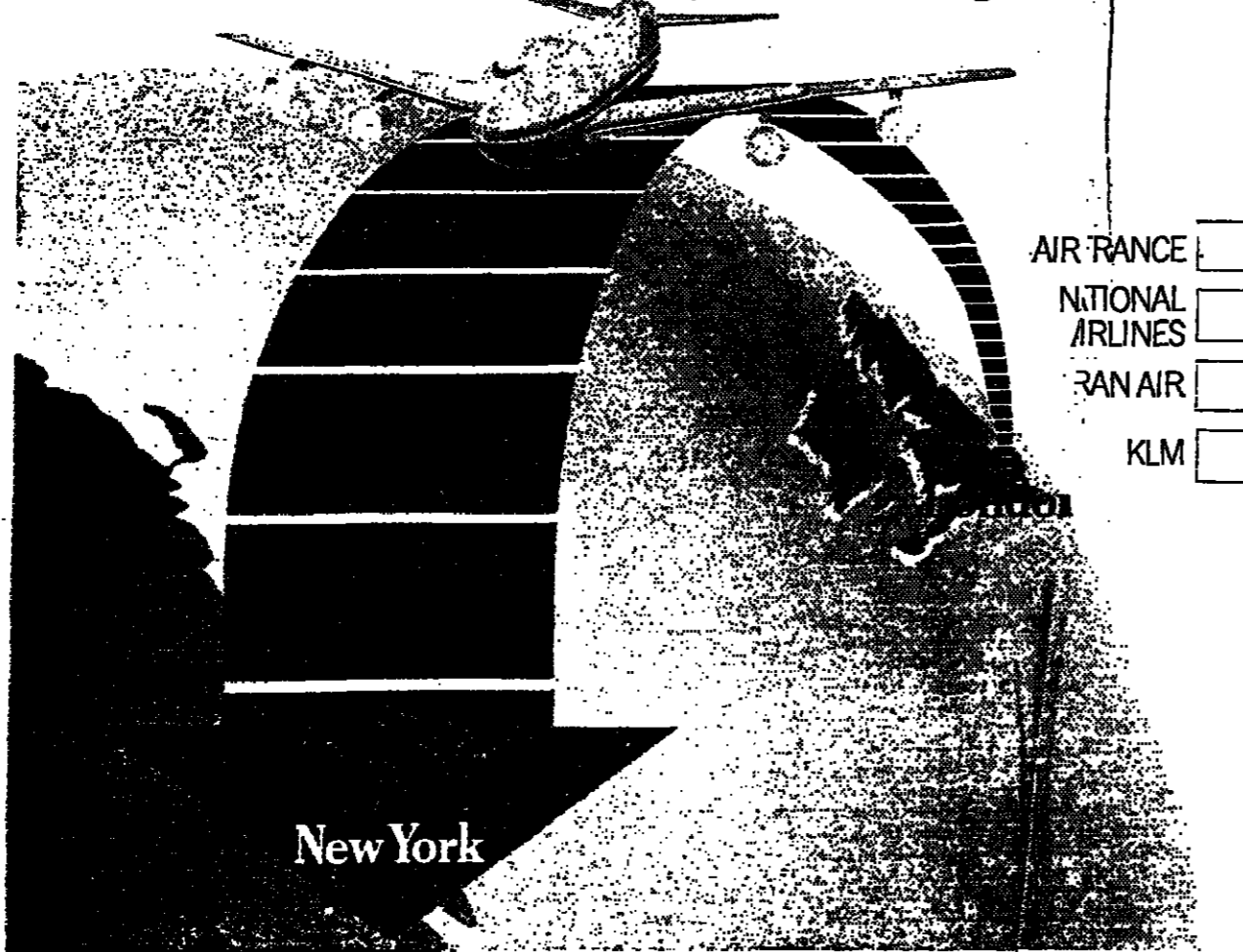
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Fashion

by Prudence Glynn

Cast off but not cast down

Handily timed for inclusion in a page about knitting come two books. The first is by the indefatigable Patricia Roberts, who is now wholesaling a range of her ideas as well as producing some of the most attractive knits in the country for you to have a click at yourself. Called, with admirable simplicity, *Knitting Patterns*, which is after all what they are, the newest book is published by Macdonald and Jane's price £5.95, and is light years away from the traditional presentation of worthy toil for the family. The designs are delicious, the colours innovative and the range covers potential punk (well, just drop a few stitches and pin up the gap) to the most elegant and county—not usually the same thing, may I add—shapes. If even the seductive pix and lucid copy cannot get you together with knitting, then Patricia has her own shop at 60 Kinnerton Street, London, SW1 (01-235 4742).

The second book is not ostensibly about knitting at all, and worse, it has a title with all the echoes of fashion-

handwaggoning. Nevertheless, I found *A Man's Book*, edited by Jane Waller—put out from the most enchanting address, The Old Piano Factory, by Duckworth, and costing again £5.95 (publishers seem to be very unoriginal)—one of the most delicious reads of the year. Of course, I am basically a snipper lover, which leads me to prefer Golden Highlights from The Ring to all the whole of the *tout ensemble*, as they used to say, but even so, snippets do not come much more fun than from the blue pencil of editor Miss Waller. The charm starts fast. The book is very pretty—too pretty for a man—but then, as Cleo Laine sang at the Royal Variety Performance on Monday night, men can be beautiful too; the layout, by Alphabet and Image of Sherborne, Dorset, only goes to show how right craftsmen are to get out of the smoke and draw inspiration from their surroundings. And the contents are so fun. The principal events of 1926 list the death of Emile Coué, whose immortal dictum of "every day in every way I am becoming better and better" must have helped so many who were actually feeling perfectly ghastly or behaving so anyway. Godfrey Winn did not believe in long engagements—presumably in an era when divorce was less simple, the less you knew about each other the better, since you would be struck with trying to make a go of it.

Not surprisingly, the ducky little Prince of Wales features madly. An unsigned piece about in His Own Home is illustrated with snaps of RHR looking ominously boyish and enchanting, but the text does not mention one of his most interesting fashion hints, recorded in his "Family Album", which is that the way to break in your busby, or bearskin, is to wear it in your leisure moments. He did so, apparently, when relaxing at Fort

Belvedere. Of course what I have always wanted to know is, what else was he wearing?

But back to the knitting. Miss Waller was not the editor of *A Stitch in Time* for nothing. *A Man's Book* is crammed with knitting patterns, all spelled out, and ranging from golf stockings, balacava helmets, seaman's jerseys (well, we had a sailor king) to unisex bathing suits and some cosy comforters for the married, I mean, really, sort of post-operational stuff. I liked best the knee cover, in rashtul rib and stocking stitch, but what happened when you got better and tried to straighten your leg?

Most importantly of all, the book gives the address of the lady who will let you know how to knit The Royal Pulllover, the famous, baggy lozenge patterned number immortalized by the Prince of Wales. All the pictures are well chosen, including a sweet one of King George VI on a stout cob with little Princess Elizabeth on an equally dependable pony beside him. For modern taste there might be a slight abundance of marignales, but then who would want royalty to be bored with? Anyway, it is such a relief to see Lillibers' jockeys a wee bit on the short side. As we mothers know, little girls' legs do grow like asparagus.

Fortunately for those to whom the admonition to knit 1, p1 1, w1 fwd is about as intelligible as the Dead Sea Scrolls, there are plenty of people around who will knit things for you. Moreover they make to a standard which combines two essentials of modern fashion (and modern cookery), namely an appearance sufficiently home-wrought to leave a question mark in the minds of even the most carping as to whether you have just nipped out to the deep-freeze/Harrods or actually made the coulmbac/duffel jacket yourself, while at the same time

reaching a very high level of proficiency in their craft.

One such business is Working with Wool, which operates from The Cedars, Hurstbourne Tarrant, Andover, Hants (telephone Hurstbourne Tarrant 300). The last time I mentioned them half Britain seemed to be knitted to their rugged strand so I have no hesitation in recommending them again. They will not knit up any pattern you choose to send them, pointing out with an engaging frankness that those to whom hand-knitting instructions are about as intelligible... etc. are equally likely to misunderstand the nature, quantity, texture and probably colour, of the yarn required, and that receiving three and a half balls of wool and what appears to be a length of unravelled vest with instruction to form said material's into a chic poncho is not really frightfully commercial.

On the other hand, Working with Wool has a catalogue of regular designs which, far from being outé, are largely the most popular and successful ideas put out by the big spinners, Patons in particular. The catalogue however is only half the story since they have at least 20 further (and rather more high-style) designs which you can see and buy as well as order if you go over to Hurstbourne Tarrant—ring for an appointment first. Handily for Christmas, they also have those delicious shooting socks and woolly hats and mitts without which no grouse-moor image is complete.

Another firm which will knit up to order is Carole Abbasi at 42 Chiltern Street, London, W1, tel 01-486 2712. She stock a range of knits and accessories. Things can be ordered by post. Animal Rainbow is a new shop at 192 Fulham Road, SW7 (01-352 5368). The designer is Diana Leslie, who started in New York. The stuff is lovely, flattering and good value.



● Above: A very special design for *The Times* readers to make for themselves. Not for beginners, says Yvonne Stewart, who with her husband Angus makes some of the most attractive men's and women's knits. This heavy duty coat takes 22 balls of Patons Pablo yarn, 55 per cent Courtelle, 45 per cent wool, an ideal mixture for wear and shape retention. There is quite a good range of colours in browns, greys, blues and reds predominant. The thick cable design goes right over the shoulder from back to front, and it is the lack of any visible shoulder seam which makes the coat not quite the thing for those who have so far progressed no further than a hot-water bottle cover. If you would like to have the pattern, please, send a stamped addressed envelope to: Courtelle Marketing (Ref KT), Courtaulds Ltd, Celanese House, 22 Hanover Square, London W1A 1BS. The coat will fit bust sizes 34-38in.

Photographs by Peter Alburgh

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● Above: Sarah Dallas graduated from the Royal College of Art last year, having spent three years at Middlesex Polytechnic, where her work was commended on this page. This cream cotton/rayon skirt costs £30 and the lacy vest £20. In between producing her wholesale range she lectures at St Martin's. Sarah's address is 20 Water Street, Skipton, North Yorkshire, her telephone (from London) 0756 3242. We think she is a talent worth watching, as do Parkers of Brook Street, W1, who already stock her clothes.



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Equities drift

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Nov 14. Dealings End, Nov 25. \$ Contango Day, Nov 28. Settlement Day, Dec 6
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Post Office union leader urges companies to cut more prices

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

Those employers said to be "falling over backwards to give substantial wage increases" should listen to the Confederation of British Industry on wage policy and concentrate on making price reductions Mr Tom Jackson, general secretary of the Union of Post Office Workers and a member of the TUC General Council, said in London yesterday.

This support for the CBI's below-10 per cent wage policy for phase three came when Mr Jackson spoke at the opening of a two-day conference on "Price Policy and the Role of the Price Commission", organized by the Financial Times.

"That way we all benefit and, who knows, firms may become more competitive and sell more", he said. "That way unemployment may decrease". The trouble was that while trade unionists had restrained pay demands, profits had increased and investment was still sluggish. "There has to be a quid pro quo for our sacrifice", Mr Jackson added.

Mr Charles Williams, chairman of the Price Commission, said he believed all the members of the commission now felt that their new powers should be used to compel companies if necessary to become more efficient. He stressed the long-term prospect for the commission, which within 10 years would be writing some 400 to

500 reports, being able to build up a national efficiency audit that would tend to concentrate on the major companies. He emphasized the differences between the Monopolies Commission—lower moving and bound more closely to a legal process that allowed less room for commercial judgment—and the more flexible remit of the Price Commission. Later, however, Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Opposition spokesman on trade, questioned whether the Price Commission, accustomed to operating margin and cost controls, was capable of carrying out a role for which machinery already existed in the Monopolies Commission, the Office of Fair Trading and the Restrictive Practices Court.

Business users of mail favour second delivery

In brief



Sir Humphrey Browne, chairman of the British Transport Dock Board, said yesterday that port charges will go up by an average 13.5 per cent at the second quarter of 1977 and the equivalent period of last year. Production of bricks during the three months August to October was 2 per cent lower than in the previous three months and 11 per cent down on the corresponding period of 1976.

Building orders decline

New construction orders continued to decline in the third quarter, according to surveys by the Department of the Environment yesterday. Total new orders were 3 per cent down on the second quarter of 1977 and the equivalent period of last year. Production of bricks during the three months August to October was 2 per cent lower than in the previous three months and 11 per cent down on the corresponding period of 1976.

Jobless rate rises grows

The rise in unemployment in the European Community slowed a little in October, possibly because of a slight rise in economic activity. Persons registered as unemployed rose 0.3 per cent to 5,986,000 at the end of the month, from 5,969,000 in September. The EEC Commission notes in its monthly report that business activity was not deteriorating and predicted a slight revival in the fourth quarter.

Pay fears for hauliers

Road hauliers face widespread bankruptcy if wage claims are pressed to the point of industrial action, Mr Ken Rogers, Road Haulage Association vice-chairman, said last night. He blamed the Government for doing too little to persuade the unions to accept the phase three 10 per cent ceiling while exerting heavy pressure on road hauliers and other employers to stick rigidly to it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Regulating trade to avoid market disruptions

From the General Secretary of the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers

Sir, Professor P. S. Harris, in his letter of November 21, implies that there is a contradiction in my union's position on the negotiation of the bilateral agreements under the Multi-Fibre Arrangement and our evidence to Professor H. A. Turner, which stresses the need to strengthen trade unions in Hongkong.

My union has for many years now drawn attention to the poor conditions of employment existing in Hongkong and demanded that workers should benefit from economic development. We have made similar demands in respect of other countries. Since Hongkong is the responsibility of the United Kingdom, my union has taken a leading part in trying to secure changes.

On the appointment of Professor Turner, by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to conduct a study on labour relations in the colony, largely as a consequence of trade union demands in the United Kingdom, my union prepared a paper outlining the inadequacies of Hongkong's social and economic conditions as they affected workers. The paper referred to by Professor Harris was a follow-up, stating clearly what we think should be done in order to strengthen trade unions.

As far as Hongkong is concerned, we are convinced that the benefits of economic development must be seen to reach ordinary workers in the colony. This is clearly not the case at the moment.

My union is not protectionist—it stands for fair and orderly trading. Yours faithfully, J. MACGUGAN, R. J. MACGUGAN, West Hill, Victoria, New South Wales, 2060.

Trade unions have also

Correct use of the term 'engineer'

From Professor Sir Hugh Ford Sir, It was refreshing to see, for once, the term "engineer" used in its correct context in your page one headline (November 7). "Engineers helping to prevent more severe power cuts" in this instance, contrary to what has happened so often in the past, the word "engineers" referred to professional or chartered engineers.

For years, the highly trained, highly skilled and highly responsible chartered engineers have been galled and frustrated by headlines in the press referring to "engineers" on strike or having caused industrial unrest when he knew before going on to read the story that it referred to a technician, a craftsman, an artisan or an operator.

The misunderstandings regarding the term "engineer", as I pointed out in my presidential address to this institution on October 26, are largely historical, dating back to Chaucer's time when "ingenious" became erroneously spelt "engin". The mistake having been made, why should it be condoned in these enlightened times? An engineer is someone who has been awarded a degree in engineering followed by four years of professional training, competence and responsibility—a similar period of education, training and experience, for example, to that of doctors in the medical profession. A person does not lightly resort to industrial action in any form, although those members of the public who are avid readers of the press could be forgiven for believing this to be the case. Am I being too optimistic in expressing the hope that at least those who read *The Times* may continue to be enlightened in future? Yours faithfully, HUGH FORD, President, The Institution of Mechanical Engineers, 1 Birdcage Walk, London, SW1, November 8.

Estel Steel chief foresees difficulties into the 1980s

From Peter Norman
Nijmegen, Nov 23

Mr Jan Hooglandt, chief executive of the Dutch-West German Estel Steel Group, today forecast that the structural crisis in the European steel industry would last into the 1980s.

He gave a warning that restoring health to the steel industry in the European Community would be a costly process with serious implications for employment.

Mr Hooglandt told a press conference at Estel's headquarters in Nijmegen, that job losses over the next five years could exceed the 80,000 forecast by the European Commission.

One of the major problems was an influx of low priced steel products from third countries such as Japan, South Africa, and Spain. The third country share of the European Community market had almost doubled to 10.35 per cent over the past three years.

Mr Hooglandt therefore urged the Community to press for orderly marketing agreements with such producers to give the European steelmakers

a breathing space in which to set their own house in order.

It was intolerable that Communist steel producers, which were not tied to the rules of profit and loss, should be able to export steel virtually without hindrance into the European Community, he added.

Mr Hooglandt announced that in the next two years the Estel Group would put into effect a programme designed to reduce costs by 500m guilders (about £115m) a year. About half of the cost savings would be achieved in the technical sector but the company would also have to reduce its labour force at Ijmuiden in Holland and in Dortmund, West Germany.

Already a personnel cut of 2,500 was planned for Ijmuiden which would probably involve 1,000 workers. A similar cut-back was likely in Dortmund. In the first nine months of the year the operating loss at Estel almost tripled to 207.7m guilders from 72m in the same period of 1976 while the group's loss before tax increased to 355m guilders from 201m. At the same time turnover rose fractionally to 6,933m guilders from 6,895m.

Italy heading for deficit above IMF ceiling

From John Earle
Rome, Nov 23

Controversy is growing over the 1978 budget, now before parliament, which even the government admits will bring public sector expenditure far in excess of undertakings to the International Monetary Fund.

When the Italian government negotiated a \$500m (£277m) stand-by credit from the IMF last spring, it pledged that the overall deficit for the public sector (including also local authorities, health service and social insurance, and the electricity board) would not exceed 14,500,000m lire.

Ministers now talk of a deficit of 25,000,000m lire, which they hope can be pared down to 19,000,000m lire. They have given up hope of maintaining the original IMF commitment. Unofficial estimates forecast that the real deficit may run to more than 30,000,000m lire.

Government supporters argue that they are in a good position to renegotiate terms with the IMF. The IMF, however, has shown little sign in public of being willing to agree to a more permissive policy.

CBI chief warns Leyland on tool orders

Mr John Methven, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, said last night that he hoped that when British Leyland finally got on its feet the resulting new orders for machine tools did not all come in a pent-up flood that could not readily be supplied from British sources.

Mr Methven, who was speaking at the annual dinner of the Machine Tool Trades Association in London, said that machine tool orders were today at a higher level than they had been since 1975. But it would be preferable if more orders were coming to the industry from British companies.

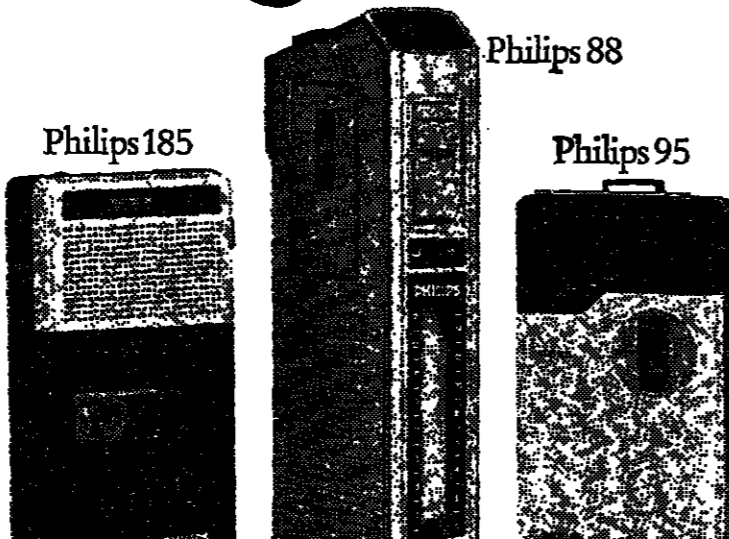
The more hopeful economic indicators of recent months, the director-general said, were based on confidence and little else.

FORECASTS FOR THE BRITISH ECONOMY									
	NIESR (Aug)	LBS (Nov)	H (Nov)	DS (Oct)	P&D (Nov)	1st half 1976/1st half 1977	2nd half 1976/2nd half 1977	NIESR (Aug)	LBS (Nov)
Consumer spending	3.7	3.2	4.3	4.5	4.4	3.5	3.3	3.7	3.2
Private investment inc. housebuilding	4.6	1.7	2.7	10.5	2.3	3.0	3.3	4.6	1.7
Public investment inc. housebuilding	-1.9	-1.0	-2.0	-2.0	-1.7	-3.0	-4.0	-1.9	-1.0
Public authorities consumption	0.3	0.4	1.0	0.9	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4
Exports	4.4	4.3	6.5	5.8	5.9	7.5	4.6	4.4	4.3
Imports	3.5	5.9	8.2	6.5	6.5	5.0	2.4	3.5	5.9
Stockbuilding (£m) Year 1976	291	90	640	350	350	300	274	291	90
Gross domestic product after adjustment to factor cost	2.7	2.1	8.2	3.8	2.7	2.5	2.1	2.7	2.1
Inflation forecast	10.6	11.1	10.7	9.3	10.7	6.5*	10.4	10.6	11.1
Balance of payments current account deficit (-) Year 1976 (£m)	2100	1844	1140	2500	1700	---	1484	2100	1844

NIESR: National Institute of Economic and Social Research. LBS: London Business School. H: Henley Centre. DS: DATASTREAM. P&D: Phillips & Drew. Fourth quarter 1977 to fourth quarter 1978 from "Economic Prospects to End 1978." Treasury forecasts £750m surplus in first half 1978 and £750m in second half 1978. All forecasts are in constant prices seasonally adjusted and at annual rates. The stockbuilding and balance of payments forecasts in the first half 1976/first half 1977 section are forecasts for the first half of 1976 multiplied by two. Stockbuilding is at 1970 prices. The forecasts by the Treasury, NIESR and LBS are based on the assumption of unchanged policies. The forecasts by H, HG and P&D assume changes in policy. For details readers should refer to original sources. Categories in different forecasts are not completely comparable, but differences are minor. Differences in result also reflect difference in assumptions, model constructions and date at which work performed. The month in which work was published is given in brackets. Forecasts published by the Treasury twice-yearly, NIESR four times a year, LBS three times a year, H, HG and P&D revise their forecasts every month.

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Results for the Half-year
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Dividends
The Board, were it free to do so, would announce overall dividend payments for 1977/78 higher than those currently permitted under the Control of Dividends Order. Since, however, dividend control is expected to apply to the whole of the Group's dividend year 1977/78, limiting the total increase to 10%, the Board has decided to allocate the entire permitted increase to the present interim dividends with the result that these dividends are being raised by approximately 30% above last year's levels. It must be expected that final

dividends, which will be announced in June 1978, will have to remain at the same rates as those paid last year. In addition, following the reduction in Advance Corporation Tax from 35% to 34%, a third interim dividend in respect of the year ended 31st March 1977 is being added to the present interim dividend on the £10 and 25p shares. Dividends are therefore now declared as follows:-

On the £10 shares, £2.50 paid, at the rate of 38.5p per share (last year 28.5p) which rate includes 0.875p of third interim dividend for 1976/77 consequent upon the change in rate of ACT.

On the 25p shares, fully paid, at the rate of 3.85p per share (last year 2.85p) including 0.0875p of third interim dividend for 1976/77.

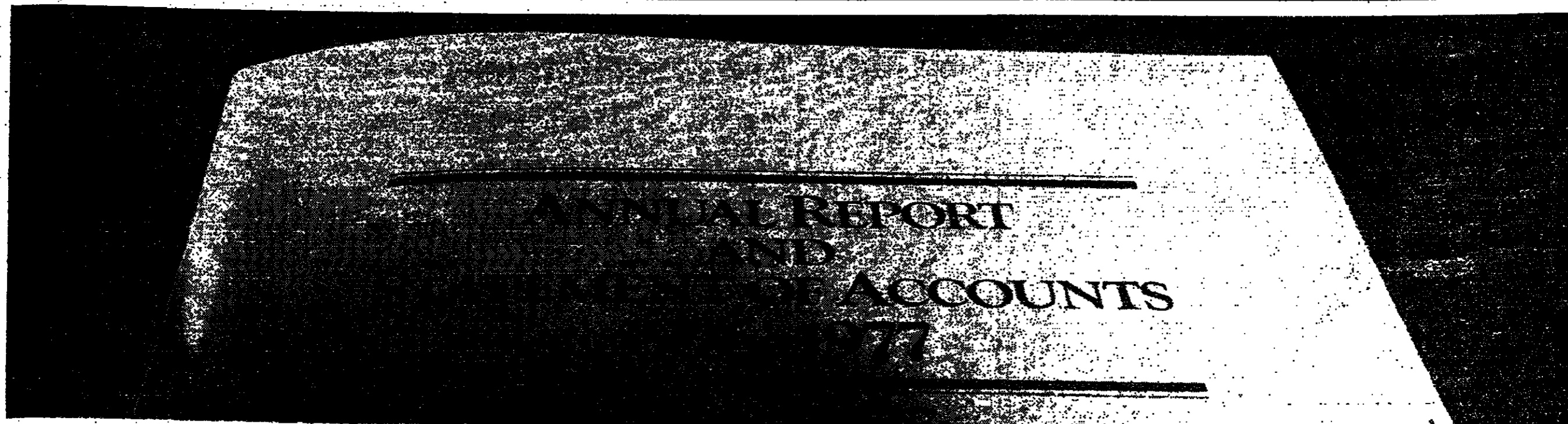
On the £1 "A" shares at the rate of 2.1p per share (last year 2.1p)



Hambros Limited, 41 Bishopsgate, London, EC2P 2AA.

Tesco finds the sales growth

مركزا من اجل



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we give all this attention to the depth and quality of our management because we recognise it as the only difference between an average and an outstanding performance.

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has a vacancy for a District Officer in its South Eastern District, based at Brighton. Duties include trade union organising activities, representing the Association and its members in various public services, and participation in the work of negotiating bodies, under the direction of the District Organisation Officer. Salary scale is £5,209 to £5,926 per annum. A car is provided (applicant must hold a current driving licence). Requests for application forms and further information should be sent, together with a self-addressed SAE by air envelope to the General Secretary, 1 Mableton Place, London WC1H 9AJ. Completed forms must be received by December 14, 1977.

ALSO ON PAGE 28

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Motoring

Big hatchbacks from Audi and Renault

Two additions to the small but growing family of large hatchbacks go on sale in Britain this week. They are the Audi Avant, a new bodystyle grafted on to the existing mechanicals, and the Renault 20T, which combines a similar body and a new 2-litre engine.

The Avant is the five-door version of the Audi 100 which has been selling so strongly since it arrived early in the year. While the saloon offers the conventional three-box arrangement, with separate passenger compartment and boot, the Avant has the semi-estate facility of the tailgate and folding rear seat.

Initially the Avant will be available only with a 1.6-litre engine, the unit used in the Audi 80, though a version with the 2.2-litre five-cylinder engine is being prepared for early next year.

The Avant and the 100 saloon are otherwise mechanically identical and have the same amount of passenger space, including headroom.

The decision to fit the smaller engine is interesting, and immediately raises the question of whether it leaves a 151st car underpowered, even if, as Audi claims, it gives lower fuel consumption of 32 miles to the gallon and runs on two-star fuel.

The answer, I discovered during a brief test drive last week, is that despite its modest cubic capacity the Avant has at least adequate performance for most conditions. Audi's figures—0 to 60mph in just over 13 seconds and a top speed of 100mph—bear this out.

The engine is noisy when pushed hard, but it gives relaxed high-speed cruising with on British roads, plenty in hand.

There is a good boot and the rear seats fold down easily to create a huge luggage area of nearly 40 cubic feet. One snag, though, is that width is rather restricted by the intrusion of the suspension units and some owners might not appreciate having to lift their cases over such a high lip. But the tailgate is very big and gas-filled struts enable it to be lifted easily.

With a sweet gearbox, light and accurate steering and good brakes, the Avant is enjoyable to drive. Seats and ride are firm, in the German manner, and the handling naut. Cloth seats, radio speakers, laminated windscreen and halogen headlights are standard items and the car costs £4,995.

Renault's big five-door car was originally launched as the R30, with a 2.7-litre V6 engine. It was followed by the 20T, which used the same 1607cc engine as the 1617X; it is, in fact, similar in size and power to the Avant, though nearly £1,000 cheaper. Now comes a third version, the 20TS, with a brand-new 2-litre engine.

An overhead camshaft, light alloy unit, developing 110bhp, it is a product of the Renault-Peugeot-Volvo joint engine plant and will presumably be used by the other companies in due course. The rumour is that it will next appear in a Citroën (now, under

Famous name revived: the new Alfa Romeo Giulietta

Peugeot management), perhaps to replace the ageing overhead valve unit in the C17.

In the R20 the new engine gives 25 to 30 miles to the gallon and a top speed of 105mph. I found it willing and flexible, though low gearing (4,000rpm at 70mph) made it sound fussy at times. At £4,724, still cheaper than the Audi, the 15 looks good value.

Road test: Mercedes-Benz 280CE

This is the two-door coupé version of the Mercedes "compact" saloon. Mechanically the two cars are similar, but the coupé's bodyshell is shorter and slightly lower, with much less room in the back. Moreover, the 280CE at £10,990 costs £1,300 more than the 280E saloon, which uses the same 2.8-litre V6 fuel injection engine.

However, whether the car is expensive or better or worse than the saloon, will be fairly irrelevant to the buyer. The important point is that it is a Mercedes, guaranteeing that particular robust excellence that has made the Stuttgart company one of the most successful and profitable among the world's car manufacturers.

The Mercedes is not at all tastes. Some find it "heavy", in the way they find German food heavy. It can seem almost too sturdy to be true, a sort of motorist's tank. The interior tends to be functional rather than decorative. And this coupé is not, despite its sporting pretensions, particularly fast for its type, though it cruises easily at high speeds.

If, on the other hand, you are a Mercedes convert, none of this matters. You bought the car (or had your company buy it for you) because of the superb engineering, construction and finish, because it offers a very high standard of both primary and secondary safety and because, simply, everything on the car functions so well.

Primary safety concerns the car's ability to avoid accidents through its braking, roadholding and so on. There can be few cars which match the Mercedes in these respects. Secondary safety involves how well the car protects its occupants if there is a crash. Again, the strength of the car and its ability to soak up impact has few parallels.

Driving is almost effortless, thanks to an automatic box that changes so smoothly I had forgotten it had four gears, and power steering which gives lightness for parking with plenty of feel on the move (though I could have done with a smaller wheel). The trans-

mission can be overridden if the driver prefers to make his own changes.

The engine is smooth and very quiet, and I found on German roads where such things are still legal, can be cruised without fuss at near its top speed of 124 mph. Acceleration to 60 mph takes about 11 seconds, which is not exceptional, but the kickdown gives plenty of power for overtaking. Fuel consumption is 20 to 22 miles a gallon.

Despite height adjustment, the front seat does not allow much headroom for a tall driver and space at the base is strictly for children. The seats are firm to have someone on them on the Audi—but good for you on a long run, Mercedes says. The ride is firm, not to say juddery over rough surfaces, and there is noticeable road noise.

Giulietta, a name remembered with affection by many Alfa Romeo devotees, returned to the Italian company's catalogue last weekend with the announcement of a new range of four-door, four-seater saloons to bridge the gap between the Alfa Romeo and the Alfa Romeo.

On a test drive through eastern Sicily last week the Giulietta revealed itself as full of character, with considerable practical virtues. Its wedge-shaped profile with its truncated rear may not please everyone, but the short rear deck masks a surprisingly big boot.

Excellent leg room front and rear make it unexpectedly roomy, while the seats give excellent support, and an adjustable steering column contributes to a wide choice of driving positions. The 1.6-litre engine—a very smooth and free-revving unit—produces 109 bhp (DIN) at 5600 rpm, an engine speed which can be extended by several hundred revs in fifth gear to give a top speed of more than 110 mph. The engine will also pull smoothly from 2000 rpm in the highest gear.

In mechanical specification and layout the newcomer has more in common with the Alfa Romeo, including its torsion bar front and De Dion rear suspension, a five-speed gearbox mounted in unit with the rear axle and driven from a twin overhead camshaft alloy engine, and disc brakes on all four wheels.

The Giulietta is being manufactured in Milan, with a choice of 1357cc or 1570cc engines, but only the larger version will be available in Britain when imports begin in mid-1978: a sensible decision, now that the Alfa Romeo has "grown" into a 1300.

Peter Waymark

Broadcasting

8.10 pm BBC 2 Almost since the day when our ancestors crawled from the primordial seas, it seems, man has been trying to find ways to return to that now-alien environment. Chronicle has been investigating the amazing success and inventiveness of Englishman John Lethbridge ... 253 years ago.

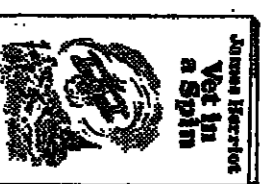
10.30 pm ITV Eamonn Andrews has for long been one of ITV's "hottest" properties—and on the versatility he shows on Time for Business, rightly so. Pity to show such a worthwhile programme when most of us are switching off—I.R.R.

BBC 1

12.35 pm On the Move. 12.45 News. 1.00, Pebble Mill. 1.45, Henty and Tait. 2.00-2.15, You and Me. 3.35, Play School. 4.20, Lippy Lion. 4.35, Jackanory. 4.50, Charlie Brown. 5.05, John Craxie. 5.10, Blue Peter. 5.35, Ivor the Engine. 5.55, News. 6.00, Nationwide. 6.05, Tomorrow's World. 7.10, Top of the Pops. 7.40, Citizen Smith. 8.10, When the Boat Comes In. 9.05, News. 9.25, The Big Time (new series). 10.00, Three films about poetry: Ulster Balladeer; Poets in School; Running. 11.05, Tonight. 11.45, Weather.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 am, Play School. 5.35 pm, Open University. 6.00, News. 6.15, The Pre-school Child. 7.00, News. 7.10, The Pre-school Child. 7.20, News. 7.30, Newsday. 8.10, Chronicle. The Treasure of Porto Santo. 9.00, News. 9.10, Star is Born, with Judy Garland, James Mason. 11.30, News. 11.40-11.45, Gary Watson reads on the Anniversary of a New Invention for the Blind. 11.50, News. 12.00, The Big Time (new series). 12.10, News. 12.15, The Big Time (new series). 12.20, News. 12.25, The Big Time (new series). 12.30, News. 12.35, The Big Time (new series). 12.40, News. 12.45, The Big Time (new series). 12.50, News. 12.55, The Big Time (new series). 1.00, News. 1.05, The Big Time (new series). 1.10, News. 1.15, The Big Time (new series). 1.20, News. 1.25, The Big Time (new series). 1.30, News. 1.35, The Big Time (new series). 1.40, News. 1.45, The Big Time (new series). 1.50, News. 1.55, The Big Time (new series). 2.00, News. 2.05, The Big Time (new series). 2.10, News. 2.15, The Big Time (new series). 2.20, News. 2.25, The Big Time (new series). 2.30, News. 2.35, The Big Time (new series). 2.40, News. 2.45, The Big Time (new series). 2.50, News. 2.55, The Big Time 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**Hamlyn Shorter All Colour
Children's Dictionary**
— Dr. H. P. Bristow



**Guinness Book of
Records 78 - Norris
McWhirter, Guinness**



10



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WHSMITH

Christmas Books Christmas Books Christmas Books Christmas Books

Critics' Choice

Continued from page XV

C. C. Hodgskin
Two rewarding echoes of the interbellum were recorded by Basil Lath. Renard's

Iverach McDonald
Milovan Djilas's *Wardline* (Secker & Warburg, 7/95) stands out because it is sensitive and honest, full of new thoughts

Volume 1 of E. M. Forster: A Life (Secker & Warburg, 5/50).

and his Berlin Jewish banker, Gerson von Bleichroder, were set down in full for the very first time. The most compulsive dig, however, was the new *Michelin Green Guide* to London (£2.50): exotic, fastidious, down-to-earth and unalluringly resourceful, with maps, sketches and printing in the classic Michelin style.

two rewarding echoes of the interbellum years: Patrick Leigh Fermor's record of his winter in 1933 by Riane and Danube to Hungary in 1933 (*A Time of Gifts*, John Murray, £6.50), and the republication of Henry Green's first novel, *Blindness* (Hogarth Press £3.95), out of print for 40 years and brilliantly foreshadowing the 1930s.

its winter ramble by Rhine and Danube to Hungary in 1933 (*A Time of Gifts*, John Murray, £6.50), and the republication of Henry Green's first novel, *Blindness* (Hogarth Press, £3.95), out of print for 40 years and brilliantly foreshadowing the authors.

Richard Holmes
My unhesitating choice is a simple and inexpensive work of reference, which has been transformed through the loving attention of its editors (Dorothy Eagle and Hilary Farnell) into a book of quite extraordinary

evocative power. "Itat gives to airy nothing a local habitation and a name". The Oxford Literary Guide to the British Isles (Oxford, 1993, £3.95) is a gazetteer of biographic and literary associations, and a brilliant interweaving of anecdote and quotation. Permanent magic.

Sheridan Morley

Threes to celebrate this year: Astoria's Us in the Morning (Hurdston, 7/25) and The Youngest (Hurdston, 7/26) and the new play by T. S. Guile with 30 actors from Olivier to Glegud who worked with him, at the end of which you feel that if he'd not lived they'd have had to invent him. Then Leeds Halliwell—£2500—500-page film (Hurdston, 7/26).

Some of the best of the new plays described by our critic, O'Neill's *Strangers Intrude* described in eight words "Problems of an unfut-

But the fact that Boyce came through, that he literally transformed his appearance, that he was able to make his own mind up, that his abilities of human nature made it irrefutable. How distressing if it became an epitaph for the experiment which made it possible: Bartoline Special Unit.

Paul Theroux

V. S. Neelapat's *India: A Womented Civilization* (Anchor/Deutsch, £3.55) is written in a style that will be regarded for years to come as the wisest examination we have of Indian

employment.

filled wife and her lover") and thirty my summer beach reading, Jessica Mitford's *Hasidism and the American Dream* (MURPHY, \$5.95) about the Californian Communists—days—as funny as her *American Way of Death* and as you can't say funnier than that.

Jan Morris

Three books I picked up, Patrick Leigh Fermor's *Time of Gifts* (John Murray, \$6.50) took me on an enchanted walk across pre-war Europe, Luigi Einaudi's *O America!*

Peter Tinniswood
If density of thumb prints per printed page is a mark of enjoyment, then top of this list comes Michael Chabon's *The Natural History of the Garden* (Cobalt, £4.50). No really outstanding novel this year, but I remain under their several spells.

I never reviewed my Book of the Year. I want out like a man and bought it. It being Anthony Burgess's *Abba Abba* (Faber, £3.95), a short, sharp, deeply moving novel, which has won the readers' and critics' prizes. I have seen the splendid poet Balli when he was dying in Rome in 1826-1. Burgess is arguably the most gifted novelist now writing in English, and his *Abba Abba* is one of the best books I have ever read. I have been so struck by it that I have arranged an evening life and (and love) party for the 19th of November, 1960, at 7.30, at the home of the author, 10, St. James's Place, London, W.1. Tickets, 10s. 6d. (including a copy of the book).

Derek Parker
To be read again and again, *The Autumns of the Patriarch* (Faber, £2.95) is the most powerful and compelling novel of the last years of the polemically rich novel about dictator of a Latin American republic. No more a quick and easy read than *War and Peace*, it is a work of great power and energy.

The novel I most enjoyed was to Carter and the Honourable Schoolboy (Hodder & Stoughton, £4.95), the slowly advancing plot of which is a study in the art of the long sentence. I was also captivated by the gossip in the observation and the architectural nuances in the second volume of James Lees-Milne's wartime diaries, Prophecy and Peace (Chatto & Windus, £6.95). And a word too, Bruce Chatwin's In Patagonia (Corgi, £2.95), a book of irresistible bits of travel and traveller's tales. South America, here I come.

David Williams

Michael Ratcliffe

"Suppose we do settle what Roger's character is, and what does of spite to allow Clive, and how does Logan have a heart—well, what then? Are we going nowhere, or are we not? Virginia Woolf (Hogarth Press, £3.50) is full of glorious energy and honest doubt, more substantial, more moving, and also, dashed off as a discipline between tea-time and dinner, more spontaneous than

and of the Jewish people. The building of the German Embassy, by Fritz Stern (Allen & Unwin, £11.50) has been a landmark in the new light on a period of critical importance for the future of Europe but throws the light from an entirely new direction. The career of Bismarck and the growth of capitalism are seen from the angle of the Jewish bankers who contributed so much, yet was, in the last resort, rejected.

1. The first part of the report, "Introduction", discusses the importance of the study and the objectives of the research. It also provides a brief overview of the methodology used in the study.

... ..

Paul Scott

Five in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the first six months of 1977 when I was reading new books instead of studying, but from that time on, I have been reading at least a book every half of the publishing year. I have an undimmed recollection of two novels: Kamada Markandeya's vivid account from an Indian point of view of the Golden Honeycomb (Chazuo & Windus, £4.95) and a new scorching novel set in modern India: Anita Desai's Fire on the Mountain (Hain-

Joseph McCulloch

One of a large field two deadbeat as the book was, I enjoyed this year: in the October, Valenti Menutkin's Unfinished Journey (Macdonald & Jane's, £5.95) a great book, not to be read as you run, but in leisure hours to savor and relish. In the fourth year, your wisdom in the

wondrous collection of interviews about the life of the man who changed the world. Gladwell worked with him at the end of which you feel that if he'd not lived they'd have to invent him. Then Leslie Caldwell—500-page *Flamingo* (2005, \$22.95)—a book that would get O'Neill's *Strong Opinions* described in eight words ("Problems of an unfilled wife and her lover") and thirty my favorite words ("The most beautiful, the most beautiful, the most beautiful"). A Fine Old Conflict (Michael Joseph, \$5.95) about her Californian Communist days—

I never reviewed my Book of the Year. I went out like a man and bought it. £3.95 was a short sharp deeply moving novel, which tapers upon the fiction stage. Keats might have met the Italian poet Balli when he was dying in Rome. Keats now grating is coming in the new edition. I have

Handred Years of Solitude, it's as compulsive and fully accomplished, I couldn't put it down, and I'm looking forward to picking it up once again for the infinite future.

David Pifer

Two very different One: P. G. Wodehouse final rejection of fiction, (p. 595)
Second: the latest contribution by the very much unextinguished doyen of Blake studies, Geoffrey Wainwright, to the Complete Sir...

also, dashed off as a discipline between tea-time and dinner, more spontaneous than the more formal and intractable contemporary. Two prickly and intractable contemporaries, key figures in a Britain falling through space, were rehabilitated with compassion and understanding by Ramsey MacDonald (Cops. 41,52) and The Strange Ride of Rudyard Kipling by Angus Wilson, literary criticism at its most alluring and the single

... ..

Brian Alderson
A N. L. Munby's Essays and Papers (Scolar Press, £10) which has proved not just another promising but also an inevitable measure of the disease. And the two children's books of 1977 that any mad collector ought to treasure are Alan Garner's *Ton Truellers Day*, with its 125 illustrations by Michael Foreman, and Ron Brooks's *ESQ* (Methuen, £2.50). The latter, by John Brown Rose and the Midnight Cat (Kestrel, £2.95).

Georgina Batiscombe (Collins, \$6.50). Max Egremont's The Cousins (Collins, \$6.50). Victoria Glendinning's The Book of the Dead (Collins, \$6.50). Heather Chappell's Four Fine Gentlemen (Constable, £6.50) — these I liked and admired. I am told, however, that my criterion mustering spelt "unbelievable" in the book I enjoyed most was Dick Francis's Risk (Michael Joseph, £3.95).

Myrna Blumberg
Original, truthful comedy is rare, but both dinner-buffet and big-band music are staples in her novel *Injury Time* (Duckworth, £3.95): the words are fearless and resonant, the form is exquisite, its passion colossal, its questioning of collected Stories of social Blackbird (Constable, £4.95) is a classic of ironic graciousness and even bliss.

Don A. Snytt The Confessions of Joseph B. Rife (Gosset, \$390) is the novel that most impressed me this year. It's readable, gripping and disturbing, and says the complete in the mind, once read, it's in the tradition of *Kan-Kan* and *Black Boy*. The tradition of *Kan-Kan* also affects and involves the reader in its psychological intricacies. It like its toughness and clarity, but can still agree with the perceptible, whenever accused, there was a lot left unsaid, and scared the reader.

Kay Dick

Latest three-volume edition of *The Collected Works of Kay Dick*, published by the Duckworth Press, 122-34, which marvelously revised the tenderness and strength of that much debated marriage, contradicted false mythos, and conveyed an extraordinarily wild and cultured scene in England, and Europe, of that time. Curly equals his wife as a

[illegible]

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D. M. Wilson

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An intimate portrait of
Leonard & Virginia Woolf

Bruce Chatwin
'Brilliant travel book,' *Observer*.
'Unusual and vastly enjoyable.'
Paul Theroux, *The Times*, £4.95

E.F.
Schumacher

BROOKE HAYWARD
A book about Hollywood like none you
have ever read before. 'One of the
most elegant and moving memoirs by
an American in this century.'
Gore Vidal. £4.95

**Judith
Rossner**
ATTACHMENTS

'An acutely sensitive and intelligent account of the marriage of two women to Siamese twins,' *Daily Telegraph*, £4.50

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the bestseller

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Charlie and the
Chocolate Factory
when they were a
little younger. £3.50**

Christmas Books Christmas Books Christmas Books Christmas Books Christmas Books Christmas Books

Laurence Cottle

Among the other military books published this year:

Very Special Intelligence, by Patrick Beesly (Flemish Hamilton, £5.95)

The Life and Death of the Africa Corps, by Ronald Lewin (Barstow, £5.50)

Rear Army Arrives, by James Lucas (MacDonald & Jane's, £6.50)

Battle of Britain, by David Irving (Hodder & Stoughton, £5.95)

Churchill and the Admirals, by Stephen Roskill (Collins, £5.50)

Read ... Buy this book - Roy Gossing.

the Great Showman by Gregory Baxford (London, 1983, £5.95). Anderson and his shoppier, more sentimental friends, the "philanthropic" planners, from unfavourable initial comparison with the mystic-clubbush English Army, and from the god of battles Eolithically as Mr Baxford stoves, the rest of the century, which was not surprised by the fact that the army had been in the mud-drenched First Army in North Africa, must conclude with a note on anatomy: "The Conscience: Charles Company by Peter Conscience" (London, 1983, £4.95). On the surface this is a stinky, account of the fortunes of one company of the Cameron Highlanders in an odyssey between North and East Africa and Italy, a young officer to serve as a junior survivor so long) with the same infantry (and although he was away from his company, and although for a year, recovery of C Company for a year, recovery of a rare bird. There is a released, there is elegantly turned narrative, and there is very little reflection on the causes involved

Douglas Scott
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This is the seamy side of war—exciting, brutal, and
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Triangle of Death The inside story of Frank Robertson. The inside story of the Chilling - by distinguished foreign correspondent. *Illustrated £3.95*

Common Factors/Vulgar Factors Jeff Nuttall and Rodick Carmichael %
Our obsession in pictures and words from that England and George Orwell in the

...heroin
...ons
...amplication
...duced into

Christmas Books Christmas Books Christmas Books Christmas Books Christmas Books

A charming shambles

The advantages of a book based on public lectures are usually ones of tone and clarity. The author had originally to find a way of holding his audience, and the monograph of the results from the time delivered by the author in the lecture hall, 1900 by Richard Stone (Phantom, £2.25), and the resulting book (Phantom, £12.50) would appeal to anyone beginning to read about the history of the subject. The book is a collection of essays, each having a continuing narrative in which is established the importance of many other figures. The 10,000 letters are: Paul Gifford, Gordon Conway, J. R. Gifford, Frederick Lewis and Turner-William. The book is a collection of essays, each having a continuing narrative in which is established the importance of many other figures. The 10,000 letters are: Paul Gifford, Gordon Conway, J. R. Gifford, Frederick Lewis and Turner-William.

Music

Dramatic genius in music

And the flood of books about music directed towards the general reader is so great that it is difficult to find a book which is not too general or too specific. The book is a collection of essays, each having a continuing narrative in which is established the importance of many other figures. The 10,000 letters are: Paul Gifford, Gordon Conway, J. R. Gifford, Frederick Lewis and Turner-William.

ALISTAIR COOKE Six Men

Illustrated £4.95

The Dictionary of Composers

Edited by CHARLES OSBORNE

This valuable reference book presents biographies of nearly 200 composers, past and present.

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BODLEY HEAD

A Note that Breaks the Silence

ADAM JOHN MUNTHER

'I would go so far as to say that nothing since Helen Waddell's *Pier Afield* has conjured up for me so vividly the very smell and feel of the Middle Ages.'

The Atlantic Challenge The Story of Trimaran FT

DAVID PALMER

FT was the first British boat to finish in the 1976 Observer Singlehanded Transatlantic Race. The thrilling insights which the author gives into the life of the lone sailor, make this the perfect present for anyone who loves the sea.

Christmas Books Christmas Books Christmas Books Christmas Books Christmas Books

All the pictures fit to print

This year is the centenary of the death of Fox Talbot, the inventor of the negative-positive process from which virtually all modern photography is descended. Exhibitions of his work have been held at the Science Museum and at the museum near his home, Lacock Abbey. The book is a collection of essays, each having a continuing narrative in which is established the importance of many other figures. The 10,000 letters are: Paul Gifford, Gordon Conway, J. R. Gifford, Frederick Lewis and Turner-William.

FROM MITCHELL BEAZLEY

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Another marvellous book from Terence Conran, founder of the Habitat 67 and author of the bestselling *The House Book*.

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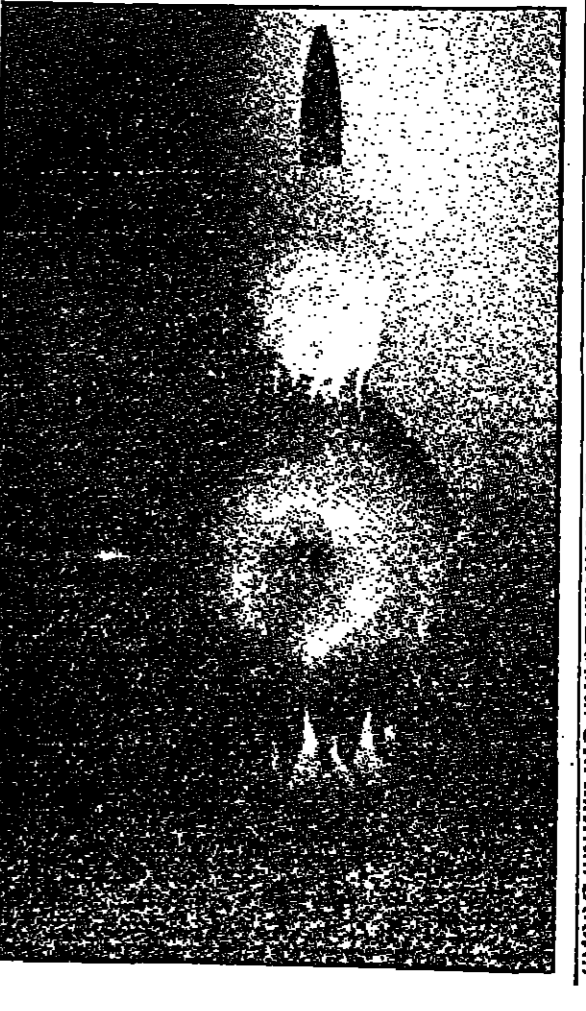
Hugh Johnson & Pocket Wine Book

A specially bound pocket-sized guide to 2,500 international wines—for connoisseurs and novices alike.

The World Guide to Beer

Edited by Michael Jackson

Picked with fascinating facts—everything you want to know about the world's most drink.



A 30 bullet acquires a flavour before its target distinguishes: from *World's Within*. A journey into the unknown (Secker & Warburg, £7.95 and £3.95). Robert Muller and introduction by Hopkins (Secker & Warburg, £7.95 and £3.95). The book is a collection of essays, each having a continuing narrative in which is established the importance of many other figures. The 10,000 letters are: Paul Gifford, Gordon Conway, J. R. Gifford, Frederick Lewis and Turner-William.

TOLKIEN The Silmarillion

Tolkien's long-awaited account of the early ages of his world tells of the heroic legends and myths to which the characters in *The Lord of the Rings* look back. Edited by Christopher Tolkien, the book includes maps, genealogies and indices.

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7/10

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member of the royal family, their duties and personal life. Also included is a survey of royal marriages, simpatías and the family tree.

1

Art/one

15

and, most importantly, unimpeachable, there are two main reasons why this is so. First, the book is a masterpiece of research. The author has meticulously combed through the vast literature on the history of the book, and has brought together a wealth of information that is both fascinating and enlightening. The book is a treasure trove of knowledge for anyone interested in the history of the book, and it is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the role of the book in the history of the world.

○

[illegible]

Children/one

1000

Brian Alderson

the Christmas
message

Avoid the roar of the cash register! It good to find The Christmas Story in Masterpieces (Collins), £4.95, a very beautiful picture book, with an unmatchable introduction by David Karsnow. If you agree David Karsnow, it is a book for all ages which cannot be said of The Little Shepherd Boy (A & C Black, £2.80) words, or paintings (Veritas) by Roy Rogers. In the Road Together Series for the year small).

The Sages-Plus Christmas Book and TV Sugar-Plum Song Book (Doddie & Stronger) are strong, £4.95 and £2.60 respectively). I like them. Jean Chapman with Deborah Maurice Sandak). The first has all the pleasures of the old style annual—a great deal of things to do, stencils, remembrance-name Christmas decorations (embroidery, flirty-looking cats) and the Song Book or two oddities, like *Little Jack Henry* (what's he doing there?) and an incredible I saw a little bird/came home with me/I said "little bird will you spin, story song"/I was going to the window to see how do you do? But he shook his tail, How do you do? Where I am a child, and went away no flower.

Three 1 inch -

pop-up book being, effectively, as many as books, the narrative is frequently illustrated for the pop-up. Take, for instance, *Three Little Pigs* (illustrated by Karen Ascosta and the Beantalks), *And the Beanstalk* (illustrated by Irana Shepherd and Windus, £1.50 each).

DAILY LITERATURE

BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

IV

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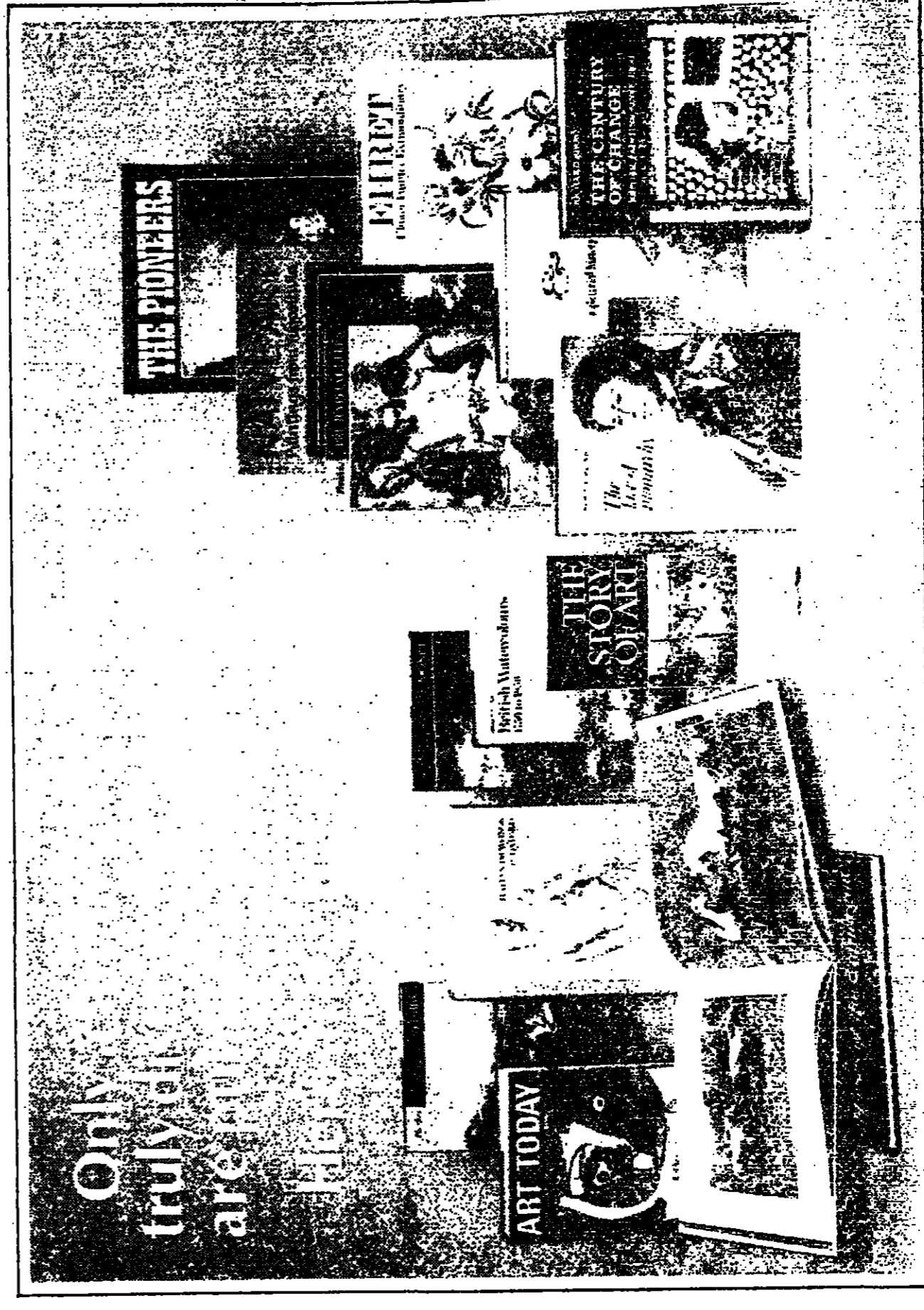
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Christmas Books

Booker
winner's short story
page xxx

A progression of cartoonists' work.
From the left: Peter Arno, Max Beerbohm, James Gillray, Al Hirschfeld and H. M. Bateman. Mark Boxer considers new books on their work on page 11.

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Christmas Books Christmas Books Christmas Books Christmas Books Christmas Books

Travel

Journeys with and without a donkey

Some travel books are designed to be read at home. The authors tend to be romantic, who carefully avoid naming a hotel or restaurant, would think it rather vulgar to quote a price, and trade in rather criticism on the more sensitive lack of the collective back of St. Charles Fort and THF to give so much as a wish.

Take, for example, Lawrence Durrell and his new book *Sicilia* (Corgi, £3.95). He has already written two thought-provoking books on the Mediterranean, *Prospect* and *Bitter Lemons*, yet *Sicilia* is a book of no great interest. Durrell's concern is with dreams and therefore, not information; and he is generally much more interested in people than places.

As his travel group, the *Caravans*, Sicily, Durrell is round in their little red bus he collects his fellow passengers much in the manner of Paul Theroux in *The Great Railway Heist*. There is Durrell, a man who does his sightseeing with military precision according to the MOSS principle: M is for music, O is for ought, S is for should, and S is for skip. And there is Bedouin, an evergreen fellow, who springs a surprise on everyone at the end.

But where is Sicily, that fierce and serene island? Only really in the letters of Durrell, which have been collected in *Sicilia*, a book which has been collected in *Sicilia*. The passing landscape is observed in so much for itself as for the thoughts it



Snow-bound on an American railroad: an evocative print from *Railway Art* by C. Hamilton Ellis (Ash & Grant, £3.95), a comprehensive study with pictures well-produced in colour and monochrome.

Trains

On and off the rails

Regular followers of the *Christmas* books supplement in the *Times* may wonder at the appearance of a book on railways. But the books on railways are not only a collection of other modes of transport, but also a collection of other modes of transport, and this year is no exception.

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Colin Wilcock
Illustrated by William Garth
Temporarily adorned by a very very funny indeed.
£3.50

Benjamin and the Box

Written and illustrated by Alan Baker
An accessible story about an acquisitive journey and a large, firmly packed box.
£1.95 Ages 3-7

ANDRE DEUTSCH

Dodo's Delight

Written and illustrated by John Rann
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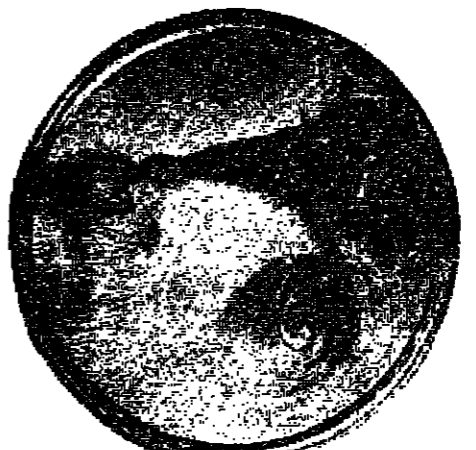
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Christmas Books Christmas Books Christmas Books Christmas Books Christmas Books

Sport
It's all in
the game

When she opened her eyes she felt her head at the bottom of a bucket of water. She had been allowed midnight. She lit green candles from the one that was guttering and placed them in the hall as a welcome home for her father and her aunt, set down cold meats and milk and bread and butter on the table and lit the candles. If her own candle and climbed to the top of the chimney and turned a layer; as every twist and turn showed a

fiction doesn't live in years, but in authors. No new *Gone* this year, but in authors. Angus Wilson (too busy with *Killing*) nothing big and energetic to compare with *Shogun*. *Samurai of Peking*, only a book that seems to have encouraged the state of fiction is currently pitiful. It isn't, of course.

[illegible]

There is *Johnny Burgess*. With a vitality only just controlled by wit he has flung his bouquet personally across the pages of two hundred and twenty books. Even his output is held against him by his admirers. *Johnny Burgess* (Faber, £3.55) was a vigorous fictionist long about Keats's hobnobbing with a tiny Italian counterpart in regency Rome—a lively eccentric forerunner to point a long set of disagreeably sharp arrows about Christianity: the Old Testament, blood stockings, the New, nudes.

There is *Handy*, the woman (Hutchinson, £4.25). His second novel, a story of death, of death, a tale which in memory becomes a myth. Reading Burgess convinces you that "a myth," the "novel" is in good, separate hands—flawed and worthy and inventive, a bedside libelosity in that keeps you awake with his felicitous imprudence.

There is *the other* novel, this year's work of art. Like *Johnny Burgess* and perfect *Shadows on our Skins* (Hamish Hamilton, £3.50), *Edison* is in a minor key, almost despairing in its tone. Like *Caroline Blackwood's* brief *Granny Webster* (Duckworth, £3.50), it is British in humour, it has a good, if any precisely reflect, on our own temper, but rarely does much to improve it.

The best of these little canons of sadness—unexciting, but unimprovable—as probably *Penelope Lively*, *The Road to Little Denham* (Hutchinson, £3.50). It's about our small aspires; heavy machinery, light affairs; devoted to eccentric old England, but also

the kaivas flash. Even I (heavily debarred in interest: I scout for his publisher) find the book totally going, of course, but thinking of it as a blood transfusion for other, more literate, and a good deal of the way it is a sophisticated series of little vignettes, a sophisticated images of the very life we have. It can be found in the experimental *Gleanings* (George's Examples (Riverside, £3.95) another book that economists anyone unprepared to spend time with it.

Most positive of all, however, *Paul Scott* in *Shylock* (On (Hutchinson, £3.50) has not proved yet again (Burgess also indicates it) that he is a writer who can be about in comic contrast to the will of nations of other countries. In his case, of course, it is life. Albert muted in style, ultra-conservative in tone and structure Scott is wonderfully true. Out of the plain studies of propaganda is a starkly old fashioned philosophy (George's Examples (Riverside, £3.95) another book that economists anyone unprepared to spend time with it.

In his saga of Indian books, though, they are seemingly remote in time and place, he is creating "a world" far more valuable to us—and likelier to survive—than the low coincidences that have been in today's novel, another, world-wide, alienation of the world, so acceptably easy, so preciously void.

David Hughes

Editor of the New Victoria Society and a judge for this year's Booker Prize for Fiction.

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